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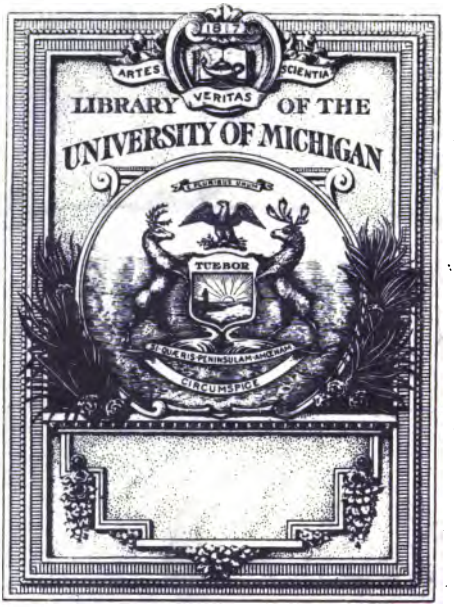
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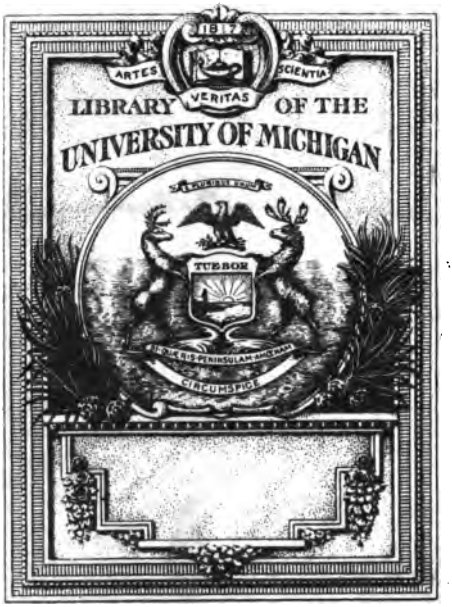
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OF SOME

LETTERS

Written to and from

The Earl of *DANBY*

(now Duke of *LEEDS*)

IN THE

Years 1676, 1677, and 1678.

With particular

REMARKS

Upon ſome of them.

Publiſhed by his GRACE's Direction.

LONDON:

Printed for John Nicholſon at the *Queens-Arms* in *Little-Britain*, 1710.

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AN Introduction To the following LETTERS.

SOME of my Friends, who had long ago ſeen both the Letters now publiſhed, and many more now in my Cuſtody, from the ſame Perſons herein named, have blamed me for not ſooner publiſhing thoſe I have now done, for the Sake of the Publick as well as for my own Juſtification. But beſides my own Innocence, as to every Article of the

Charge laid againſt me in Parliament in *December* 1678; ſo many, both of Lords and Commons, who had then voted againſt me; and particularly the Lord *Ruſſell* and Sir *Henry Capell* who was the Man that carried up that Impeachment to the Lords, having own'd to me their being led into great Miſtakes concerning me, and that they were ſorry for it, and that many others were then undeceived as well as themſelves: Beſides which, the Malice of my Accuſation did ſo manifeſtly appear in that Article wherein I was charged to be Popiſhly affected, that I dare ſwear there was not one of my Accuſers that did then believe that Article againſt me. The Duke of *Devonſhire* alſo, when we were Partners in the ſecret Truſt about the Revolution and who did meet me and Mr. *John D'Arcy* for that Purpoſe at a Town called *Whittington* in *Derby-ſhire*;

ſhire; did, in the Preſence of the ſaid Mr. *D'Arcy*, make a voluntary Acknowledgment of the great Miſtakes he had been led into about me; and ſaid, That both he, and moſt others, were entirely convinced of their Error. And he came to Sir *Henry Goodrick's* Houſe in *Yorkſhire*, purpoſely to meet me there again, in order to concert the Times and Methods by which he ſhould act at *Nottingham* (which was to be his Poſt), and I at *York* (which was to be mine); and we agreed, That I ſhould firſt attempt to ſurprize *York*, becauſe there was a ſmall Garriſon, with a Governor there; whereas *Nottingham* was but an open Town, and might give an Alarm to *York*, if he ſhould appear in Arms before I had made my Attempt upon *York*. Which was done accordingly, but is miſtaken in divers Relations of it. And I am con-

fident, that Duke (had he been now alive) would have thank'd no Body for putting his Prosecution of me amongst the glorious Actions of his Life.

FOR these Reasons, most of which were so notoriously known, I did not think that I had needed any other Justification; and did therefore not comply 'till now, with my Friends Desires, to make these Letters publick. But they having let me see, That Care hath been taken to make the Articles of my Impeachment to be printed in a Book, entituled, *A Compleat History of England*, by an unknown Author (but who calls himself an *Impartial Hand*), that the Charge against me might remain to Posterity; and many other Mercenary Scribblers, as the Pamphlet, called, *The Monthly Miscellanies*, &c. having presumed, a-

mongſt their other lying Stories, to make ſome falſe Reflections upon my Actions in thoſe Times (ſome of them being taken *verbatim* from the forſaid *Impartial Hiſt.*) I, and others of their own Inventing; (as thoſe moſt egregious Lyes, concerning King *Charles* and the Counteſs of *Northumberland*, and the Lord *Mountague's* being at *Nottingham* at the time of the Revolution, where he neither then was, nor in Arms any where elſe in the Kingdom, *&c.*) And my ſaid Friends alſo telling me, That my ſuffering ſuch Falſhoods to be Printed and Published (in my Life-time, without any Thing being ſaid to contradict them,) did make ſome Perſons, who gave no Credit to them heretofore, now begin to doubt whether there might not be ſome Truth in ſome of thoſe Accuſations, if nothing ſhould be ſaid in my Life-time to expoſe the Falſity of them.

I HAVE therefore annexed the following Copies and Extracts of ſuch Letters, as will ſhew the ſmall Part I had (and that but at Second-hand) in what related to the *French* Money; as alſo how far I was from ever promoting any *French* Intereſt. How infinitely and conſtantly I was honoured for many Years with the Friendſhip and Kindneſs of the Prince of *Orange*; and what his Opinion was of my Accuſation in that Parliament; and how unworthily I was uſed (as well as the King my Maſter) by Mr. *Mountagu* (notwithſtanding the infinite Obligations he owns he had to me), after I had refuſed to aſſiſt him againſt Sir *William Temple* in being Secretary of State, who was as earneſtly deſirous to be cauſed from that Employment, as the other was to procure it at any Rate.

AS

As to the Concealment of the Popish Plot (which is another Article against me in the said Impeachment), I was so far from concealing it, that the greatest Displeasure King *Charles* ever shewed against me, was my bringing *Tiga Oates* his Informations concerning that Plot before the Parliament: And, as I find it written in some of Sir *William Temple's* Memoirs, so he told me himself, That the King was very angry with me for it; and that although I did not believe it, I should find that I had given the Parliament an Handle to ruin me, as well as to disturb all his Affairs, and that I would live to repent it. And indeed, I have lived to find Kings to be true Prophets, as well as Kings; for I have seen many villanous Designs acted under the Cover of the Popish Plot; and I have seen many

Abuses

Abuſes made of the Triennial Act, about which King *William* was very much diſpleaſed with me for concurring in it, and uſed the very ſame Expreſſions which King *Charles* had done, *That I ſhould live to repent it.* And I am not afraid to acknowledge, that I have repented both, ſince I have ſeen ſuch very wrong Uſes made of them: And I verily believe, that if I had made my ſelf ſo much a richer Man than I am, by thoſe great Rewards, which I might by Mr. *Mountagu*'s Help have had from *France*, and that I had kept the Papers about the Popiſh Plot from being brought to Parliament, I ſhould not only have eſcaped their Proſecution (as King *Charles* foretold), but have acquired the *Encomiums* of thoſe very Perſons who are now the Promoters of Slander againſt me.

I PUT Mr. *Mountagu*'s Letters, and the Remarks upon them, in the firſt Place, becauſe the principal Articles of my Impeachment are grounded upon his Accuſation; and the Reſt are to ſhew, how faithfully I acted to the beſt of my Underſtanding for the Intereſt of my Country, atteſted by ſo many great and undeniable Witneſſes, whoſe Original Letters are now in my Cuſtody to prove the following Copies and Extracts herewith printed.

THE

I PUT Mr. Mountagu's Letters, and the Remarks upon them, in the first Place, because the principal Articles of my Impeachment are grounded upon his Accusation; and the Rest are to shew, how [illegible] I acted to the best of my Understanding for the Interest of my Country, attested [illegible] and undeniable Witnesses, whose Original Letters are [illegible] my Custody to prove the following Copies and Extracts herewith printed.

CONTENTS.

THE Introduction Page 1.

Mr. Mountagu's *Letters, with the Lord Treaſurer's Anſwers, from* Page 1. *to* 93

Particular Remarks on ſome of Mr. Mountagu's *Letters, with other Matters relating to them, from* 94, *to* 122

The Prince of Orange's *Letters to my Lord Treaſurer, and his Lordſhip's Anſwers, from* 124, *to* 241; *wherein are alſo ſeveral Letters of Monſieur* Bentinck's.

Remarks on ſome of the Prince's Letters, from 242, *to* 246

Sir William Temple's *Letters to the Lord Treaſurer, with his Lordſhip's Anſwers, from* 247, *to* 284

Particular Remarks on Sir William Temple's *Letters, from* 285, *to* 288

The Lord Sunderland's *Letters to the Lord Treaſurer, with his Lordſhip's Anſwers, from* 289, *to* 305

Remarks

The Contents.

Remarks on some of the Lord Sunderland's *Letters*, Page 306, 307

Mr. Brisbane's *Letters to the Lord Treasurer*, *from* 308, *to* 322

Remarks on Mr. Brisbane's *Letters*, *from* 323, *to* 325

Mr. Hyde's *Letters*, *from* 326, *to* 342

Remarks on Mr. Hyde's *Letters*, *from* 343, *to* 345

Mr. Godolphin's *Letters and Instructions*, *from* 346, *to* 362

Remarks on Mr. Godolphin's *Letters and Instructions*, 363

The Conclusion, 364

ERRATA.

Page 22. Line 25. for *opinitrated*, read *opinistred*. p. 34. l. 1. for *you*, read *your*. p. 36. l. 1. for *June* 12. read *October* 12. p. 140. l. 14. for *avous*, read *avons*. p. 171. l. 12. for *do*, read *to*, p. 273. l. 16. for *over-proposed*, read *ever proposed*. p. 289. l. 21. for *obtain to*, read *to obtain*.

Copies

Copies and *Extracts* OF SOME LETTERS, &c.

Mr. *Mountagu*'s Letters.

To the KING.

Paris, June 21. 1677. *N. S.*

SIR,

I CANNOT but think it my Duty, whilſt I have the Honour of being employ'd or truſted by your Majeſty, to give you an Account of thoſe Things that, by the Station you have put me in, I have the Opportunity of diſcourſing for your Service, and when you are acquainted with them, I do humbly ſubmit to your Prudence and great Wiſdom to make what Uſe you ſhall think fit of it. That your Majeſty may underſtand me the better, you muſt call to Mind how, when you

made a ſeparate Peace with *Holland*, Mr. *Ruvigny* (at that Time the King of *France* his Miniſter in *England*) was ſo * Outragious. * *emporté* and paſſionate upon it, that you were extreamly diſſatisfied with him, and his Proceedings; and at an Entertainment made you by my Lord *Lindſey* at *Chelſea*, you were pleas'd to call me to you, and Command me, becauſe of my Friendſhip and Acquaintance with him, to adviſe him to change his Language and Behaviour: That you could not believe his Maſter would countenance him in it; and that you thought you gave great Marks of your Friendſhip in proceeding no farther, and not taking up the Triple Alliance again: That whilſt you had been join'd with his Maſter, the Crown of *France* had extreamly advanc'd his own Intereſt, and none of your Majeſty's, as he was oblig'd to by his Treaty. When I deliver'd him your Majeſty's Meſſage, I found him extreamly ſurpriz'd and frighted, which I improv'd as much as I could: All that he had to ſay to me was, After ſuch great Sums that his Maſter had paid in *England*, it was hard to be left ſo. I told him, that as for the Sums of Money, they were not ſo great as to regret the Payment of them; That, to my Knowledge, the Crown of *France* paid to the Crown of *Sweden* Two Mil-

Millions and an half for being Neuters, (for ſo the *Swedes* were then) and that your Majeſty, who was ſo Great and ſo Powerful a King, had but Three Millions of *Livres* for ſo vaſt a Fleet as you put to Sea, and for ſome Ten Thouſand of your Subjects that you let paſs over into *French* Service: That theſe kind of Diſcourſes and Reproaches would but exaſperate your Majeſty; That I did not know how far that might carry you: That his beſt Way was to be diſcreet, and ſay nothing. I remember his Expreſſion, *E bien J'E pargnerai mes paroles & le Roy mon Maiſtre ſon Argent.* With this I left him, and gave your Majeſty an Account, without troubling you with the Particulars I do now, that I had obey'd your Commands to Mr. *Ruvigny*. You ordered me alſo to give my Lord *Arlington* an Account (who was yet Secretary of State) of what had paſs'd between us: Which I alſo did; and told him, That although Mr. *de Ruvigny* talk'd very high, yet I obſerv'd with what I had ſaid to him of the Triple Alliance being taken up again, he was extreamly frighted, and ſo much, that I was ſure, if he were well manag'd, the Three Millions you had during the War, might be continu'd to you. He anſwer'd me, That I was out of Play, and no longer

Well then, I ſhall ſave my Breath, and the King my Maſter his Money.

Ambaſſador, and that you would not take it well, he was ſure, my medling any more in Buſineſs: Upon which Admonition I let that ſort of Diſcourſe fall. Some few Days after, Mr. *Ruvigny* came to ſee me, telling me, That in Return of my Kindneſs for having adviſ'd him ſo well, he was come to be adviſ'd by me: That he found all your Miniſters turning againſt *France*, and my Lord Treaſurer particularly, abſolutely in the Prince of *Orange*'s Intereſt: That he was afraid you would be brought to join with the Confederates, and abandon *France*. For himſelf, he was at his Wits end, and knew not what Meaſures to take, except I would adviſe him; whereupon I told him, That my Lord Treaſurer was the Man you now moſt truſted, and in my Opinion (if your Majeſty would accept of it) the beſt Way was to offer the Continuance of the Three Millions during the War *(*Car dans ce monde on ne fait rien pour rien*). After this, I heard nothing of Mr. *Ruvigny* of three Months, till at laſt he came and told me, †*Vous m'avez donné un bon Conſeil, & le Roy mon Maiſtre vous en eſt obligé*.

*For in this World, no Body does any thing for nothing.

†The Advice you give is very good, and what the King my Maſter is oblig'd to you for.

SINCE

SINCE my coming into *France* this laſt Time, I have convers'd much with Mr. *Ruvigny*, who partly with Age, and partly with Diſcontent at his ill Uſage at Court, is the moſt broke that can be, and as you will eaſily believe by what I am going to tell you: For finding him always complaining of his ill Uſage after the great and good Services he had done, I flatter'd his Diſcontent as much as I could, to get out of him his greateſt Services I found he ſo much talk'd on; and at laſt he confeſs'd to me, that when I adviſ'd him to offer your Majeſty the Continuance of the Three Millions, That he propos'd it at this Court: That they conſented to it, only with a Recommendation to *menager la bourſe du Roy*: That he had done it ſo well, as to bring your Majeſty to be contented with an Hundred Thouſand Pounds: That if he would, the King of *France* would as eaſily have paid you Three; and notwithſtanding his great Service, they now refus'd to make his Son a Brigadier, or to give him the Reverſion of his Place of *Agent pour les Hugenots*, worth a Thouſand Piſtoles a Year. I have ſeen all the Letters writ to him from *France* about this Affair; and your Majeſty may believe me, if Mr. *Ruvigny* had

To be as good an Husband of the King's Money as he could.

Agent for the Proteſtants.

not managed, in hopes to make his own Fortune by ſuch a Service, you had had Three Hundred Thouſand Piſtoles a Year, where now you have but One.

I TROUBLE you, Sir, with all theſe Particulars, that you may the better know your own Power and Greatneſs, and conſequently ſet a greater Value upon it, if you think fit. I am ſure, the Greatneſs of the King of *France* is ſupported only by your Majeſty's Connivance at what he does, and the good Will *Chriſtendom* ſees you have for him. The Advantage he has by it, even in Point of Revenue by his Conqueſts, does amount to Five times the Sum you have now from him; and tho' After-Games are hard to Play, I think I underſtand this Court ſo well, and if you care to have it done, I am confident I could get you, by Agreement, a Million of Livres a Year to be paid whilſt the War ſhall laſt, and Four Millions after the Peace ſhall be made; I mean, Sir, over and above what you have from *France* now: And if you approve of my Propoſition, be pleas'd to write me five or ſix Lines with your Commands and Directions, and I doubt not but to give you a good Account of it. Since I do not know which of your Miniſters you are willing to truſt, I have taken the Boldneſs to give your ſelf this Trouble, and if you truſt any, I had rather it were my

Lord

Lord Treaſurer, becauſe I think he is the beſt Judge of ſuch an Affair; and except you ſhall think it for your Service that he ſees this Letter, I humbly beg my Siſter may ſee it burnt, becauſe Mr. *de Ruvigny* is concerned in it, whoſe utter Ruin the Story I told you might be; and your Majeſty is ſo Wiſe and Juſt, that I in no manner doubt of the Secrecy.

I HAVE prepar'd every Thing for the Execution of your Commands in this Matter; and if you lay any upon me, it muſt be ſoon, for the Conjuncture makes a great deal, which towards Winter may not be ſo favourable. Your Majeſty will excuſe this Trouble from the Zeal I have for your Service. I am

Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful
and Obedient Servant,
R. MOUNTAGU.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, July 15. 1677. *O.S.*

My Lord,

THE King has been pleas'd to ſhew me a Letter of yours, dated the 21ſt of *June*, and has commanded me to write you this Anſwer to that Part of it which concerns the Money. That he ſhall take it for a good Service to get an Addition of

a Million to be well paid during the War, and Four Millions well ſecur'd to be paid within ſix Months after the Peace ſhall be made; but unleſs he can be then certain of the Four Millions, the Addition of One Million during the War will not be enough, it being impoſſible with leſs than the value of Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling a Year, whilſt the War laſts, to ſupport his Affairs in which he ſuffers ſo much for their Sakes, as I confeſs in my own Opinion, no Money can recompenſe. His Majeſty knows not how to ſend you any particular Inſtructions as to the Management of this Matter; but truſts intirely to your Judgment, ſince you tell him that you have prepar'd every Thing for the Execution of his Commands in it: But he has commanded me to give you this Caution, That unleſs you ſee your Way clearly through this Affair, he would have you communicate to him the Steps by which you deſign to arrive at it, before you put it in Execution.

HIS Majeſty has directed this to be ſent by an Expreſs, both for the Safety of it, and the quicker Return of your Anſwer; being of Opinion, that Time is not to be loſt in whatever ſhall be done. I am,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, July 16. 1677. *O. S.*

My Lord,

I FIND by your Letter to the King of the 21ſt of *June*, as well as by many other Ways, that I am much oblig'd to your Excellency for your good Opinion; and I aſſure you, my Endeavours ſhall be not to diminiſh it, but on the contrary to deſerve as well as I can, of you, by my Services.

HIS Majeſty is very well ſatisfy'd to know thoſe Paſſages you writ him of Mr. *de Rowigny*; but I confeſs, I wonder to find that his Majeſty has not had more than a Million of Livres a Year (and that but for one Year paſt) from them, for whoſe Sakes I am ſure he ſuffers more than, in my Opinion, any Money can recompence: But ſo little Faith have I in any of their Promiſes, that unleſs you can ſecure what they promiſe, I ſhall expect the Noiſe rather than any Benefit from them. I perceive by you, That Mr. *Chiffinch* hath been, and is to be, his Receiver of whatever ſhall be had from thence: And I am very glad of it, being truly deſirous to have as little to do with them in any kind as I can; unleſs it were to Cudgel them out of that Contempt they have, not only for

our

our Nation, but the very Perſon of the King, altho' he be ſo unhappy as not to believe it.

I KNOW not whether I ever gave you any Account of having ſhew'd the King your Letter, where you propos'd the Remove of the Plenipotentiaries from *Nimeguen* to *London*; wherein I was, and am ſtill, of your Opinion, becauſe I would have his Majeſty change the Figure of Mediator into Arbitrator: But I fear, for that Reaſon, his Majeſty will not do it, thinking himſelf to be ty'd up to ſuch nice Points of Honour, as, I durſt take the Sacrament, would not be ſtood upon an Hour by the King of *France*, if the Condition of our Maſter were his. I entertain you the longer upon this Subject, becauſe I think it our Duty, by all the Means poſſible, to convince the King of this Truth; and if you, who have many Opportunities of doing it, could ſend me ſome of thoſe frequent Inſtances, which I am confident there are, of that Court's deſpiſing the Counſels of this, it might be a Means of ſaving us from being ruin'd by that Nation, which, I believe, deſigns nothing ſo much as to be the Ruin of this. Among many other of their Proceedings with us, I am chiefly amaz'd at their denying to you what they ſo bare-fac'dly act by their Plenipotentiaries at *Nimeguen*, about the Treaty, which they call,

of

of Commerce with *Holland*; and I ſuppoſe, that before this Time Mr. Secretary *Coventry* has let you underſtand, that it has been taken here for your Miſtake, as a Thing not poſſible for them to deny what is ſo Publick. I am infinitely deſirous to have this Matter explain'd, and how far you believe they are advanc'd in it with the *Dutch*; and I will freely declare you my Opinion, which is, either that it is already all concluded betwixt them privately, or that it ſtops only upon the Prince of *Orange*, till he ſees what Terms he can have with us, which he rather deſires. You had receiv'd theſe Letters a Week ago, but that I have been ſick at *Sheen*, and am return'd to *London* but this Day. The Parliament met this Day, and is adjourn'd to the 3d of *December* next. I was ſorry at my coming to Town to find my Lady *Harvey* gone, who, otherwiſe, I intended to trouble with this Letter, but have now ſent a Man on purpoſe. I am ſo much a Stranger to all the *French* Counſels, that I neither know why Mr. *Courtin* is remov'd, nor upon what Meaſures Mr. *Barillon* is ſent; only I find (and am not at all ſorry for it) that I am like to have no more of his Converſation, than I have had of Mr. *Courtin's*. I am perfectly,

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Aug. 7. 1677. N. S.

My Lord,

I AM to return you my humble Thanks for your kind Expreſſions in your Letter: I do aſſure you, my Lord, there is no Servant you have is more entirely intereſted and concern'd for the Continuation of your good Fortune, than my ſelf; nor no Man thinks you deſerve it better, both for your Capacity and Prudence in ſerving the King, and the Obligingneſs of your Nature to every body elſe; of which, in my own Particular, I have had a greater Share than I can have deſerv'd from you, and ſhall eſteem it as a great Addition to your former Favours, if you pleaſe to give me any Occaſion of letting you ſee how real I am in my Profeſſions. I cannot write to you very freely this Way, becauſe this Meſſenger may be expos'd to many Accidents; but if you pleaſe to ſend me a Cypher by ſome good Opportunity, I will always tell you all I know that may be for your Lordſhips Service; Who am, with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

P. S. Pray loſe no Time, my Lord, in diſpatching a Meſſenger, to let me know what you have done with Mr. *Courtin*: If the King be gone to *Portſmouth*, your Lordſhip may ſend me your Orders, without loſing the Time you muſt, to hear from his Majeſty there.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Aug. 12. 1677. *N. S.*

My Lord,

SINCE my laſt to your Lordſhip, I have been for two Days at *Verſailles*, expecting his Chriſtian Majeſty's Anſwer to the Demands I made by the King's Directions, of Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, to begin the firſt of this *Auguſt*, and continue being paid till the General Peace is concluded; taking for granted, that Mr. *Courtin* muſt be come back, and that it would be conform to my Orders from the King, to inſiſt either upon Two Millions of Livres a Year during the War, and Four Millions of Livres to be well ſecur'd ſix Months after the Peace, or elſe Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds *Sterling* during the War. But Mr. *de Pompone* tells me this Morning, That Mr. *Courtin* has agreed this Matter with the King my Maſter, and in your Lordſhip's Preſence;

ſence; and that his Majeſty will be contented with Two Millions of Livres a Year only during the War; which, I confeſs, ſurpriz'd me extreamly, conſidering the Neceſſity of his Majeſty's Condition, and the Poſitiveneſs of his Commands to me to inſiſt upon Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds *Sterling*, which I had done very effectually, and muſt have ſucceeded in, conſidering the Reaſonableneſs of the Demand, except the Generoſity of the King our Maſter's Nature, who values Money ſo little, has already condeſcended to the leſſer Sum of Two Millions; in which I am afraid, by the end of the Year, he will find he will fall ſhort of being able to ſupport all the emergent Occaſions that may happen, and perhaps *France* be a greater Sufferer by it than he himſelf. Wherefore I have diſpatch'd this Meſſenger, on purpoſe to acquaint his Majeſty with what is ſaid to me here, which, to me, ſeems different from the Language he told Mr. *Courtin*, at the Time you writ to me. The Steps I had made, in order to it, were ſo ſure and infallible, that I thought, without any great Preſumption, I might, as his Majeſty gives me Leave, rely upon my own Judgment in it: It is unneceſſary to repeat the long Letter of mine his Majeſty ſhew'd your Lordſhip, and after thoſe Paſſages, of which I give a full Account there, I addreſs'd my ſelf for a

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Preparative to the effecting this in the ſame Place, where his Majeſty may pleaſe to remember I did ſome ſix Years paſt, for the releaſing him of an Article, in the Treaty then made with *France*, of his raiſing and maintaining, at his own Charge, Six Thouſand Foot in the *French* Service; which I very luckily did; ſaving his Majeſty, beſides the other Inconveniencies, above a Hundred Thouſand Pounds a Year, for a Preſent of Two Thouſand *Louis d'Ors*, which he gave me Leave to make where it was neceſſary to inſinuate that which effected the Buſineſs. I am engag'd to make the ſame Preſent now, they taking for granted that they have extreamly advanc'd and facilitated this Affair, and promis'd their Aſſiſtance and neceſſary Advertiſements for the punctual Payment of the Sum agreed on. In the laſt Buſineſs of this Nature, I had Order from my Lord *Arlington*, to draw Bills upon Sir *Stephen Fox* at two Months Sight, and make uſe of my Credit here to take up the Money. Your Lordſhip muſt now give me Directions, whether I ſhall draw Bills upon Mr. *Bertie* and take up the Money here, for I am at a ſtand what to do, or how to behave my ſelf in this Affair without your particular Directions in it. I am to beg your Pardon, my Lord, and I think ſhall eaſily obtain it, if without your Knowledge I have receiv'd ſome Propoſi-

tions

tions made to me of great Advantage to your Lordſhip, if you will pleaſe to uſe your Intereſt with the King your Maſter, to be contented with a leſs Sum than is inſiſted upon; They taking for granted, that it was your Advice that rais'd the Market, (I tell you the very Expreſſion,) and my Anſwer was, You ſerv'd too good a Maſter, and was too good a Servant to receive any Advantage from any Body elſe; and there could be nothing ſo diſobliging to you, as the Thoughts of offering it.

THE Count *de Caſtellmelior* has been ſick, or elſe you had had, by this Time, a more perfect Account than I can give you this Way, though I ſend one on Purpoſe with it; and conclude, That if the King have not Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, it is his own Fault, and not mine. I beg the Continuance of your Favours and good Offices to his Majeſty, being with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Aug. 12. 1677. *N. S.*

My Lord,

YOU will ſee by my Letter, that your Lordſhip is to ſhew the King, how the Negotiation of the Money is embarraſs'd, either by Mr. *Courtin* not repreſenting the Neceſſity of the King's Affairs as he ought to do, or the King's Eaſineſs without your Conſent to condeſcend to a leſs Sum than he commanded me to inſiſt upon; but Mr. *Courtin* writes poſitively, that he has agreed with your Lordſhip for Two Millions of Livres, whereas I have inſiſted upon Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, and could not fail of having it granted, except the King himſelf have gone back from the Orders he gave me.

I WISH the King would have let this whole Matter have been tranſacted by ſo wiſe and faithful a Servant as your ſelf; he would have found the Benefit of it, and either would have had nothing, or a larger Sum than a Million of Livres a Year. I congratulate very heartily with your Lordſhip, that Mr. *Chiffinch* is to be the *French* Treaſurer; and in this, and every Thing elſe that can concern your Lord-

ſhip, you ſhall find me as careful and faithful as any Servant you have; being with all Truth and Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To Mr. Mountagu.

Wimbledon, $\frac{11}{21}$ *Aug.* 1677.

My Lord,

I SEND this by the Poſt, only to let you know I have receiv'd both yours of the 10th Inſtant, *N. S.* which came by the Expreſs you ſent.

THE King is gone to *Plymouth*, and till his Return, I ſhall be able to ſay nothing to ſuch ſurprizing Matter, as your Letter imports in every Part of it. For in the firſt Place, I never ſpoke with Mr. *Courtin* in my Life about that, nor any ſuch Affair, till ſince I receiv'd this laſt Letter from you, ſo that all he has ſaid was done in my Preſence, is utterly falſe. In the next Place, I know nothing of the

King's

King's Change of Mind in that Buſineſs, only I know he has more Reaſon than ever to be poſitive in his Reſolutions: But I know not what to ſay in it, becauſe, ſince I receiv'd your Letter, I had ſome Diſcourſe with Mr. *Courtin*, who ſpeaks much of the ſame Kind to me that you had from Mr. *Pompone*; the Truth of which muſt remain till his Majeſty's Return, and then we ſhall both know what we are to do. Your Excellency muſt expect till then alſo, for Orders about the Man you ſay is ſo uſeful to you. In the mean time, I think it not neceſſary to ſend any Expreſs; but I give you Thanks for making that Anſwer you did, concerning any Advantage to my ſelf, who you will find, upon all Occaſions, ready to ſhew, that I am,

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Aug. 28. 1677. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I RECEIV'D the Favour of yours of the 11th, and am very glad to find you are not engag'd in any Thing contrary to what you writ to me in your Firſt; and if all Parties concern'd are unengag'd, and have not given their Words, the Buſineſs cannot fail, and in the Manner as was order'd to me: And in caſe that the good Nature of our Friend has not condeſcended to other Terms than what they firſt propos'd, I have order'd Matters ſo, that I am confident my firſt Propoſition may ſucceed. As for the Perſon that is and has been ſo uſeful in this Affair, I beg I may not diſcontent them, for I will demonſtrate to you, upon the firſt Opportunity, that it was impoſſible to leave them out; nor can you, 'till this Matter be wholly out of Doors, be without them, but with a very conſiderable Prejudice.

I PRESUME ſo much upon your Friendſhip and Juſtice, as to believe, what I ſay is purely for the Good of thoſe you concern your ſelf for, and not

out

out of any pitiful Advantage to my ſelf.

THIS comes by my Siſter, who has a Cypher to know how to ſend it to you, and as ſoon as you explain your ſelf to me, I ſhall be able to make an End of this whole Matter. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Aug. 30. 1677. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I THINK I may write to your Lordſhip three or four Lines ſafely by this Bearer, a Gentleman of my Lord *Duras*, and therefore I will give you in ſhort, the true Account of the Negotiation, concerning the Money to be paid the King our Maſter from hence during the War. After what I had writ to the King, concerning the Paſſages between Mr. *Ruvigny* and my ſelf, I endeavour'd to furniſh my ſelf with all the

Arguments to make the Buſineſs ſurely ſucceed; and in the firſt Place, I did, by the Means of the Perſon I writ to you concerning a Gratification, come to the Knowledge of thoſe Sums that are given to the Duke of *Bavaria* and *Hannover*, both which are much leſs conſiderable Princes, I hope, than our Maſter, and yet the former has, at leaſt, as conſiderable a Sum privately paid, as what I pretended to for our Maſter, and ſuffers not half ſo much for his Partiality, or rather Neutrality, for *France*; which Argument, when I urg'd, they could not anſwer, but by deſiring me to have Patience, becauſe they were aſſur'd from Mr. *Courtin*, and expected another Confirmation every Day, that our Maſter was, and would be, contented with Two Millions of Livres; which as I told you Word, my Lord, Mr. *Pompone* aſſur'd me the King had condeſcended to * *de Concert avec le Grand Treſorier*; I tell you the very Expreſſion. Notwithſtanding I have ſtill † *Opinitrated* for Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, telling that I had my Orders from the King himſelf, and till I heard from him Matters were agreed, I could believe no Body elſe, knowing how impoſſible it was for him to ſupport his Government without it, and how eaſie for the *French* King to furniſh it, as I demonſtrated

* With the Lord High Treaſurer's Concurrence

† Inſiſted hard.

monſtrated by the Addition of his Revenue by the new Conqueſts, the true Knowledge of which I got by the Means of the ſame Perſon; and really that very Addition comes to very near Six Millions, and methinks our King might have Three of them, ſince he is abſolutely the Occaſion of the King of *France* his Enjoying them. You will find alſo, my Lord, if you agree for *Two French* Millions only, that the King will be a Loſer out of that Sum, at leaſt Twelve Thouſand Pounds a Year by their Addreſs in the Exchange; whereas all that Sum would be ſav'd, and a good deal got, if whatever Sum be to be paid, you agree that it be in Pounds Sterling. Pray, my Lord, let me have your Directions at large, and as ſoon as you can; for I do tell you very frankly, and I hope the King will Pardon me, ſince it is out of Zeal for his Service, That if he has not Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, it is his own Fault; and if he has condeſcended to Two Millions, I can, I am confident, bring on my Firſt Propoſition of Four Millions after the Peace; and I dare flatter my ſelf ſo much, as to believe you will approve the Steps I have already made towards the effecting it.

I go to Morrow to *Fontainbleau*, and leave Directions behind, that any Com-

mands of yours may be brought to me; who am, with all Truth and Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, Sept. 11. 1677.

My Lord,

I HAVE Two of yours to acknowledge, One of the 28th of *Auguſt* by the Poſt, and another of the 30th by a Servant of my Lord *Duras*; and for your Direction, it is neceſſary that you ſhould know the full State of the Matter here. At the King's Arrival from *Plymouth*, I found he had conſented (and in the Preſence of the Duke) to Two Millions, to be compleated for One Year, ending at *Chriſtmas* next; but confeſs'd he had not conſider'd the Difference betwixt that and Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds, and ſaid, That Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds was the Sum would be at leaſt neceſſary for his Service, and which he

he had directed that you ſhould inſiſt upon; and I found he was troubled that he had conſented to the Two Millions, and immediately ſent for the Duke, whom he commanded to ſpeak with Mr. *Courtin* about it, and tell him how neceſſary it would be to have Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds, by reaſon of the Danger of the *Spaniard* falling out with him: But his Highneſs not being able to prevail upon Mr. *Courtin*, nor his Majeſty being willing to ſpeak any more upon that Subject to him, the Reſult of his Majeſty's Pleaſure hath been, That he will ſpeak no more of this Matter himſelf to Mr. *Courtin*, but does Command that you do ſtill inſiſt upon the Sum to be Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds; but you are to ſay, That you perceive the King did once think to have made a ſhift with Two Millions, but that now he finds ſo great Cauſe to apprehend a Breach with *Spain*, or at leaſt ſo much Appearance of it, as will neceſſitate him to be at more Charge than he intended in the Weſtern Iſlands, ſo that he muſt needs deſire that Sum.

NOTWITHSTANDING this Reſolution, I believe that Mr. *Courtin*, who goes from hence in two or three Days, will be wholly a Stranger to it, and will arrive in the Court confident of our King being content with Two Millions; ſo you are to expect that Difficulty, and to con-

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tend with it as well as you can. If it ſhould happen, that at laſt no more than Two Millions can be had, I find you however ſtill confident of the Four Millions after the Peace. I am perfectly,

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To the KING.

Fontainbleau, Sept. 25. 1677. *N. S.*

SIR,

I HAVE, in Conformity to your Majeſty's laſt Letter, repreſented to the King and Miniſters here, the Neceſſity of your Majeſty's having Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, and to help you off of your * *Embarraſs* which you may be in, by their preſſing you to the having given your Word to Mr. *Courtin* to be contented with Two Millions. I have turn'd the Matter this Way. The King here, at my Arrival, (as he does to all other Ambaſſadors) gave me Notice, That whenever I had any Thing to ſay to him, I might have the Liberty to

* Perplexity.

to ſpeak to him; but he would deſire me to let him know of it before-hand, and communicate to the Miniſter, whoſe Province my Buſineſs concern'd, what I had to ſay, for that ſometimes Ambaſſadors had ſurpriz'd him, and he had given his Word in Things, which when he afterwards weigh'd, and adviſ'd with his Miniſters, he could not, without great Inconveniency, keep. This I told him was your Majeſty's Caſe, for if Mr. *Courtin* had conſulted with my Lord Treaſurer (without whom no King in the World could tell what Money is neceſſary to ſupport his Affairs) theſe Miſtakes would not have happen'd, and you would not ſo eaſily have condeſcended to what proves ſo inconvenient to you: Your Majeſty not then conſidering the Breach that may happen with *Spain*, the Fall of your Cuſtoms by Merchants not daring to venture to Trade, and the Increaſe of your Expences by your being oblig'd to give them Convoys, that it was partly my Fault, by keeping the Cover you ſent me here, with poſitive Orders to inſiſt upon Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling; which I did, but ought not to have done, though the King here deſir'd it; for it expos'd your Majeſty (who is of ſo generous a Nature, as not to love the Diſcourſe or Diſpute of Money-Matters) to the Solicitation of Mr. *Courtin*, who,

who, as all good Servants do, muſt ſpare their Maſter's Purſe as much as they can. You were over and above oblig'd to a greater Expence for the Security of your Weſtern Iſlands; all theſe Things conſider'd, I hope he will ſupply you with the Sum firſt inſiſted on. All theſe Arguments of mine, neither the King or Miniſters can anſwer; they have only deſir'd me to ſtay till they ſpeak with Mr. *Courtin*, who is expected in four or five Days: But in the mean Time, I conclude Mr. *de Barillon* will endeavour to keep you to the Two Millions. Therefore, Sir, if I may be ſo bold as to adviſe you, ſay only this when he ſpeaks to you, * *Je n'ayme point a parler ny a diſputer des affaires d'Argent, je vous remets a mon Grand Treſorier, avec qui vous prendres vos meſures & qui j'ay commandé d'envoyer mes ordres a mon Ambaſſadeur ſur cette affaire.* I am ſure, my Lord Treaſurer has ſo good a Reputation Abroad, for his Ability and Management of the Revenue, that where he tells the Neceſſity of it, they will diſpute it no longer, and will be convinc'd, that it is not to raiſe the Price, but for the real Support of your Government that you are oblig'd

* I do not care to enter into any Diſcourſe or Diſpute of Money-Affairs, I refer you to my Lord Treaſurer, with whom you may concert Matters, he has Directions to ſend to my Ambaſſador ſuch Orders as are neceſſary in that Affair.

oblig'd to inſiſt upon the firſt Demand; and that your Deſires are conformable to what I have repreſented here, that I may give ſuch an Account as may ſhew you the Zeal that I have for your Service: Who am, with all Duty,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful

and Obedient Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Fontainbleau, Sept. 25. 1677. *N.S.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been here theſe two Days. I found the King and Miniſters extreamly ſupriz'd, when I told them the Orders I had from the King my Maſter, to propoſe this laſt Affair again, and in ſome Suſpicion as if my Orders did rather come from your Lordſhip, than the King; wherefore I write by the Poſt, leſt what I write by the Duke of *Monmouth* ſhould not come ſo ſoon, to give you this Notice; And I hope, when Mr. *de Barillon*, whom I think they

they will believe ſooner than they will your Lordſhip or me, and who will have Orders to ſpeak to the King our Maſter upon this Affair, ſhall give them an Account, That what I have propos'd this ſecond Time as well as the firſt, was our Maſter's own Deſire, as his own Hand-Writing juſtifies me in, they will give his Majeſty full Satisfaction in what he deſires. I am, with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Fontainbleau, Sept. 25. 1677. *N.S.*

My Lord,

I SEND you a Letter inclos'd, ſuch as your Lordſhip may ſhew the King, and in this I take the Liberty to give you the beſt Account I can of this Money-Affair; and out of the Reſpect and Service I have for your Lordſhip, I have order'd ſo, and I think made Things ſo eaſie, that you may

may have the Credit and Advantage with the King, of concluding it. It will alſo, for the Time to come, play all Things of Moment and Conſequence into your Hands, and confirm the King more and more in the Opinion he has of your Ability and Fidelity in the Management of all his Affairs. I had, two Days before I came hither my ſelf (by a Letter I writ to the Perſon I mentioned to you, as One uſeful in this and other Affairs, and which I know would be ſhew'd the King and Miniſters) prepared them by the Orders I had receiv'd, for my inſiſting ſtill upon Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling; and when I came, the King and Miniſters ſeem'd to be extreamly ſurpriz'd at it, but I us'd ſo many Arguments to them, that they had nothing to anſwer, but that the King had agreed with Mr. *Courtin* for Two Millions: To which I anſwer'd, That though the King had in Modeſty, or not examining the Difference between *French* and *Engliſh* Money, conſented to ſuch a Thing, yet it was wholly without your Lordſhip's Conſent or Participation, and that you were the Perſon the King truſted in the Management of his Money-Affairs; beſides which, I would have you do that which none of the King's Miniſters have yet had the Addreſs to do, which is to take an Aſcendant over *France*, which is next to what you ſay you have a Mind to do,

which

which is, to Cudgel them into a better Behaviour, and more Reſpect towards our Maſter: And this is the Time of doing it, for by this we ſhall judge of our Strength, which as yet we are ignorant of.

I HAVE not drawn the Bills for that Money upon you, becauſe you tell me not to do it, except the Affair ſucceed; but pray conſider if they had not done their Part; when I aſſure you, upon my firſt ſpeaking, they told me, Orders were given for providing Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds, and only ſtay'd to ſee if Mr. *Courtin* could get any Thing abated; and if the King will ſpoil the Buſineſs, who can help it?

WHEN I was laſt in *France*, the King truſted me enough, and gave me Leave to keep my Word with them, and found the good Effect of it; if I do not now, they muſt think I cheat them; and if I do, for ought I ſee the King will think I cheat him; ſo that I have no very good Time between both: And only out of the Deſire to do the King a Service, I have ſtill aſſur'd them, That let what will happen, I will keep my Word, and aſſure them I am providing the Money; and if I cannot ſatisfie your Lordſhip and the King, I will pay it out of my own Allowance, and be warier another Time; for if you had not writ me Word the King truſted wholly to me, and to my Judgment, to bring this about,

about, you are ſure, my Lord, I would have had your Directions and Orders in it firſt: Therefore, pray do not let a Man's good Intentions do him an ill Office; for you ſhall never find any Body that ſhall have more Deference or Reſpect for any Orders you ſhall ſend me, nor that is with more Truth,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

I had forgot to tell you, that I find here, Mr. *Courtin* negotiated this Matter of contenting the King with two Millions privately at Mr. *Chiffinch*'s Lodgings without your Participation, for Mr. *Pompone*, in the Heat he was to convince me the Affair was concluded, ſhew'd me Mr. *Courtin*'s Letter, where he ſays as much, but was ſorry after he had ſhew'd it; ſo that, by this, you may ſee how they endeavour to ſurpriſe the King.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Octob. 12. 1677. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I HOPE you Lordſhip will, upon the reading of the King's Letter, be ſatisfy'd with what I have tranſacted in this Affair of the Money, and the real Deſire I have, by every Thing that comes in my Way, to be a little Inſtrumental in the Confirming his Majeſty in the Opinion he has already of your Ability and Dexterity in the Management of all his Affairs: Wherefore I have play'd this Buſineſs, which was almoſt ſpoil'd, into your Hands, that the Miniſters here may ſee the King truſts you as much in his Foreign Affairs, as in thoſe that relate to your Office at Home; and without Compliment or Flattery, you will ſerve him better than any Secretary of State I ever knew him have yet, or Sir *William Temple*, if he were it.

After having had many Conferences with the King and Miniſters, I had yeſterday this Anſwer from the King; * *Mr.* de Barillon *finera celles affaires avec Mr. le Grand Treſorier*: So that, my Lord, I dare truſt you with the little Gentle-

* Mr. *Barillon* will ſettle theſe Matters with my Lord Treaſurer.

Gentleman, whom you need not be ſo tender of, as I have been of the little One lately come back, who is extreamly diſſatisfy'd that his Preſent, at coming away, was made proportionable to his ſmall Stature. It is a great Preſumption in me to adviſe your Lordſhip; but the King's Letters, without repeating it again, will ſhew your Lordſhip what Steps I have made, and by them, you will conclude it which Way you think moſt advantagious.

I HAVE ſeveral Things of Importance I would communicate to your Lordſhip, and which, I am ſure, will be of great Service to you to know; I have therefore begg'd the King's Leave to come over for a Fortnight, which, I hope, you will approve of. When I come, I will beg the Favour of waiting on your Lordſhip before I ſee any Body, till when I beg the continuance of your Favours, and the Belief of my being moſt unfeignedly, and with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the KING.

Paris, June 12. 1677. *N. S.*

SIR,

HAVING by another Expreſs receiv'd your Majeſty's Commands, to continue the Solicitation here of Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds to be paid you during the War, I have omitted no Arguments to make my Demand prove effectual: But by Reaſon of your Majeſty's firſt Condeſcention to the Sum of Two Millions, and Mr. *Courtin*'s Arrival, who has confirm'd it, I have met with greater Difficulties to bring the King here to conſent to it, than I ſhould otherways have done; yet however I have had ſo much Reaſon on my Side for what your Majeſty demands, that they know not here what to anſwer me, and do therefore delay to give me any Anſwer.

I HAVE not been mealy-mouth'd on this Occaſion, and have told them plainly, That your Majeſty underſtands very well the Advantage the Crown of *France* has receiv'd by this War, both by the Increaſe of Power and Revenue, and that it was not reaſonable, if you did not get, that you ſhould be a Loſer; which you muſt of Neceſſity

ceſſity be, if they did not aſſiſt you with ſuch a Supply at leaſt as you now deſired.

I TAKE the Liberty, Sir, to give you this Advertiſement about thoſe Matters which Mr. *Barillon* will now negotiate with your Majeſty; and I hope you will refer him, as I have humbly advis'd before, to my Lord Treaſurer, who, I am ſure, will conclude it to your Majeſty's Advantage and Satisfaction.

I HAVE ſeveral Things of Moment and Advantage to impart to your Majeſty which I cannot write, and humbly beg your Majeſty's Leave to come into *England* for a Fortnight. I have writ to Mr. Secretary *Coventry*, to ask it of your Majeſty; and I remain with all Duty,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt Obedient

and Faithful Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the KING.

Paris, Decemb. 29. 1677. *N. S.*

SIR,

ACCORDING to your Commands laid upon me, I will give your Majeſty the beſt Account I can, of the King's Anſwer to the Propoſitions of Peace you commanded me to inſiſt upon.

AT my Arrival at St. *Germains*, I went for Form-ſake to Mr. *de Pompone*, whom I found full of Expreſſions of great Obligations he knew the King his Maſter had to your Majeſty, and full of Hopes that you would continue them, by making Uſe of your great Credit, which, by the Honour you had done the Prince of *Orange* in his Marriage, you muſt needs have over him, to prevail with him to recede from ſuch high Terms as are propos'd.

I WILL not trouble you, Sir, with all I ſaid to him, for the Concluſion of this whole Affair being ſolely between the King and Mr. *Louvoy*, I thought it muſt be there that I was to try the greateſt Streſs. When I came to Mr. *Louvoy*, I found him very impatient to hear what I had to ſay; and

he

he began with me, asking me, * *Apportes vous nous des bonnes Nouvelles.* I told him I had brought no News, for I had brought no other than what my Lord *Duras* had brought, and I was ſure the King my Maſter was ſo friendly to his, that he would not have ſent them a ſecond Time if he had not thought them good. He preſently told me, That for *Valenciennes*, *Condé*, and *Tournay*, he knew the King his Maſter would make War a Hundred Years, rather than part with them: If he loſt them by War, there was no Diſhonour in it; but if he ſhould give them up without defending them, his People would reproach him, and all Poſterity think him the falſeſt Prince in the World for parting with, out of Fear, that which was the Security of his Kingdom, and had coſt the Lives of ſo many brave Men to gain. I told him, his Maſter had too great a Reputation in the World, to make that an Argument for his denying what was now asked; and that, perhaps, both in his own Nation, as well as in all others, and to Poſterity afterwards, there could not be a greater Blemiſh to his Reputation than the not ſtanding to the Arbitrage of the King of *England* for a Peace, who would never have ſuffered him to have made ſuch a Progreſs in *Flanders*, but upon his having ſeveral Times ſolemnly given

* Have you any good News for us.

his Word, both by his Ambaſſadors in *England*, and to me here, to that Effect. I made Uſe alſo of all the other Arguments your Majeſty had furniſh'd me with your Self. In Concluſion, Mr. *de Louvoy* told me, That if you would procure a General Truce for a Year, and in that Time manage the Prince of *Orange*, ſo as not to inſiſt upon thoſe Places, your Majeſty ſhould be paid as much as if thoſe Places were your own; and although ſuch a Sum of Money as this would be hard to return, it ſhould be put into Wedges of Gold, and ſo put into Bales of Silk, and ſent over in a Yatcht. And as for my Lord Treaſurer, (whom they looked upon as a chief Adviſer in this Affair) if I would do them the Kindneſs here as to ſound him, there is nothing they would not give him to make his Fortune: It ſhould be given him in Diamonds and Pearls, that no Body could ever know it; and I my ſelf ſhould not be forgot, if I would propoſe it to him.

I UNDERTOOK to anſwer, That my Lord Treaſurer is not to be gained for any Intereſt, but what he thought to be his Maſter's; and as for my Propoſing any ſuch Thing to your Majeſty, I durſt not do it, my poſitive Orders being to inſiſt upon the Reſtoring thoſe Towns which would make the Peace, and be of more Advantage to your Perſon and Crown, than all the

Money

Money of *France* could be. Mr. *de Louvoy* deſired he might ſee me again after the King's Supper, for he would go to him and give him an Account of all our Diſcourſe. After Supper, Mr. *de Louvoy* told me, He found his Maſter reſolved not to part with *Valenciennes*, *Condé* and *Tourney*, and very hardly with *Courtray*: That *Charleroy*, *Ath* and *Audenard*, fortified as they were at his Charge, made as good a Barrier as needs be; and if the Prince of *Orange* would fortify any other Places, he would be at the Expence of it. That ſince I would not propoſe the Matter of the Money to your Majeſty, Mr. *de Barillon* ſhould have Order to do it, and he hoped you would think you ſhould find your Account better, by having your Share of thoſe Towns which he kept, which you would have in effect, by having the Value of them in Money, than by entring into a War againſt a King that will be ſo ready to ſerve you upon all Occaſions. So I ended with Mr. *Louvoy*. Next Morning I had an Audience of the King in his Cloſet, where he repeated to me all Mr. *Louvoy* had ſaid, and conjured me to repreſent to your Majeſty, That the Thing in the World he feared the moſt, was a Breach with your Majeſty.* *Mais il faut tout hazarder plus toſt que de me Laiſſer couper bras & jambes* * But I muſt hazard every thing, rather than ſuffer my Arms and my Legs, (for I account the Places demanded of me ſuch) to be cut off.

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que ſont les Places que l'on me demande. And then he called for the Maps, and ſhewed me the Conſequences it would be, as he ſaid, if he parted with them. * *Dites Je vous prie au Roy voſtre Maiſtre, que Je feray toutes choſes a ſa conſideration, horſmis ce que Je ne puis faire en Honneur & en Conſcience.*

*Prayte ſ the King your Maſter, That I will do any Thing in the World upon his Account, which may be done with Safety to my Honour and Conſcience.

THUS I have given your Majeſty a juſt Account of all that paſſed between me and the Miniſters.

I BELIEVE *Valenciennes*, *Condé* and *Tournay*, he will not part with: *Courtray* I believe he will, and perhaps *Condé*, if it be demoliſhed. If they venture to engage in a War, it is upon Preſumption that the firſt Year you cannot do them much Hurt, and that the ſecond the Parliament will be weary of the War; but I have endeavoured as much as I can to diſabuſe them of that.

THEY are mighty inquiſitive, Whether the *Spaniards*, upon engaging with them, will give you up *Oſtend*? The Fear of that, alarms them very much. If your Majeſty ſhall judge it more prudent, if you can bring the Prince of *Orange* to accept of a Truce for a Year, to do that, rather than enter into a War, before you have taken

your

your Meaſures with the *Spaniards*, the *Dutch* and the Parliament: And if you ſhall hearken to any Propoſitions of Money made to you by the *French*, I humbly adviſe it may be with Secrecy; and that whatever Sum you ſhall inſiſt upon, you will let my Lord Treaſurer manage with Mr. *Barillon* in *England*, and by me with the King here. When I know your Mind, I know ſo much of theirs, that I am ſure I ſhall make a better Bargain than you can for your Self. This Meſſenger will bring me any Commands you ſhall have to lay upon me, which I ſhall obey with all Care and Duty, as becomes,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful

and Dutiful Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the KING.

Paris, January 1. 167½. *N. S.*

SIR,

I GAVE your Majeſty an Account in my Laſt, of the King of *France*'s Anſwer to me, concerning the Propoſitions of Peace that you commanded me to inſiſt on, and what Meaſures your Majeſty ſhall take, your

your own Wiſdom will beſt direct: But I told my Lord Treaſurer when you ſent my Lord *Duras*, That you would never bring *France* to conſent to thoſe Terms, but by a General Truce firſt; and if in that Time they ſaw you reſolved to enter into a League againſt them, and were prepared for it much better than you are now, rather than continue the War, I did believe they would do it, if in that Time by your Friendſhip you did not leave them ſome of the Towns you now inſiſt upon to be reſtored: Now nothing but a Truce can ſtop them, and I believe *Ghent* will be the firſt Thing they will go upon, and *Mons* and *Ipres* follow, all which will not be three Weeks Work. The Chancellor, Mr. *Colbert*, and Mr. *de Pompone*, are all for the Peace I am certain, and the King himſelf not averſe; but Mr. *Louvoy* has ſuch a Mind that the Projects he has laid for this Campaign ſhould go on, that he is for venturing all, rather than be ſtopped now: Wherefore if your Majeſty can obtain a Truce, I dare confidently affirm you will be Maſter of the Peace upon Terms that will be honourable for the Prince of *Orange*, and ſecure for *Flanders*, tho' perhaps not juſt thoſe you now inſiſt upon, beſides the ſtopping of what will be done this Year, which in all Probability will be more than has been done all the War. As for *Tournay*,

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the King tells me, it is of the ancient Demeſne of *France*, and that he cannot part with it. For *Valenciennes*, I am told by ſome that have heard him diſcourſe of it, he would eaſier part with it; and for *Condé*, not without Demoliſhing it, for it is now Impregnable, and has coſt him Three Millions: But all theſe are but Town-Talk, and every Body here knows the Terms you are like to break upon. If you had a Year's Time, no doubt, Sir, you might turn Matters better than you can in ſuch Haſte: And tho' I did not think it proper, nor for your Service, when I had only your Commands to inſiſt upon the Reſtoring the Towns above-mentioned, to receive or charge my ſelf with any Propoſitions of Money; yet I take the Liberty to put you in Mind, Sir, That if you come not to a Breach with *France*, you may certainly accommodate your own Affairs; and it is not reaſonable that they ſhould go away with all the Advantage of a War that you have really helped them ſo much in, and inconvenienced your ſelf ſo much by. I am ſure, there ſhall be nothing that I ſhall always ſtudy, nor wiſh ſo much, as what may be for your Honour and Advantage; being,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful,
and Obedient Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, January 8. 167½. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I HAD before this Time troubled your Lordſhip, had there paſſed any Thing ſince my being here worth giving your Lordſhip a particular Account of; but I preſume, whatever is of any Moment, you have the Knowledge of it, both from the King himſelf, and at the Committee of Foreign Affairs. This therefore is only to return my humble Thanks to you, for all your Favours to me before I came out of *England*, and for your laſt to my Father in the Buſineſs of *Geddington* Woods; I ſhall acknowledge the Senſe I have of them, in being as ſerviceable as any Body ſo inconſiderable as I can be to you in all your Intereſts and Concerns; and I ſhall think my ſelf extreme happy, whenever you will be pleaſed to give me an Opportunity, of making good my Profeſſions of being intirely your Lordſhip's.

THE *French* King has at laſt conſented to the Marine Treaty, with all the Advantages the King our Maſter deſires, and I do not doubt the having it ſigned and finiſhed before the Meeting of the Parliament. I wiſh it may have ſo good an Influence

upon

upon them, as to diſpoſe them to do all thoſe Things that are neceſſary to put our Maſter at Eaſe in his Affairs, and your Lordſhip more Quiet and Satisfaction in the great Employment you are in: The Continuance of which is wiſhed, with all the Truth imaginable, from him who is, with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Obedient,

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

I HAVE juſt Time to tell your Lordſhip, That I have received a Letter of the 24*th* of *December*, *Engliſh* Style, from Mr. Secretary, with the King's Order to make Inſtance in his Name with his Chriſtian Majeſty for a General Truce for a Year, and the Paſſing his Word to attempt nothing in *Flanders* till the Firſt of *March*. By my Two laſt, your Lordſhip has Reaſon to imagine, that I may ſucceed in theſe Propoſals; and to Morrow I will diſpatch an Expreſs, to give his Majeſty an Account.

To the KING.

Paris, January 10. 167⅞. *N. S.*

SIR,

ACCORDING to your Commands given me by a Letter of my Lord Treaſurer's, of *December* 24. *Engliſh* Style, and another of Mr. Secretary *Coventry*'s, I have repreſented to the King of *France*, with all the Reſpect that could be, your Majeſty's Intention of Continuing your kind Correſpondence; and how, upon that Account, you deſire a Reſpite of Arms in the *Netherlands* for Two Months, which you would own as the greateſt Mark of Kindneſs he could give you; to which, I have yet no Anſwer. As to the Reſtoring of *Condé*, *Tournay* and *Valenciennes*, I have had ſeveral Diſcourſes; and I am ſure, by People ſet on a purpoſe, that they knew you only inſiſted on *Tournay*, out of Kindneſs to your Nephew the Prince of *Orange*. That if you were as kind to your Neece, *Madam's* Daughter, which they thought you were, you might eaſier get her a Kingdom, than him a Town. That they were not ſo far engaged to marry the Dauphine to * Mr. *de Bavicre*'s Daughter, that they might not, if your Majeſty favoured them in the Keeping of *Tournay*,

* Elector of *Bavaria*'s.

Tournay, marry your Neece to the Dauphine, whoſe Children, that would be your Nephews, would have *Tournay* and all *France* beſides, and owe it you. I thought it my Duty, Sir, to give you this Hint, both for the Kindneſs I know you have for the Memory of your dear Siſter, and becauſe, if you can by your Credit bring the Prince of *Orange* to conſent, it will be, I am ſure, more Honour to you in the World, and more Pleaſure to make your Neece Queen of *France*, than to get the *Spaniards* a Town more: Beſides, the Expedient will not be ill to bring you off the Terms you have inſiſted upon; and which, I do verily believe, if you ſhould preſs now you are unprovided, the King of *France* will engage in a War, rather than conſent to: Whereas, if there be a Suſpenſion of a Year, which now ſeems difficult, there will be many Ways to make you agree. I hear ſome talk of demoliſhing *Condé*, and giving it back, of ſlighting *Valenciennes*, and making it a Neutral Town. I remain,

SIR,

Your Majeſties moſt Dutiful and Obedient Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To the Lord Treasurer.

Paris, Jan. 10. 1671. N. S.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will see, by the King's Letter, the ridiculous Proposition that is made of Putting off the Parliament, and the Restoring any Places that shall be taken in *Flanders*, before a Ratification of a Suspension of Arms shall be delivered. I cannot imagine from whence this Resolution should arise, except it be from the Opinion they have in this Court; and indeed, till now they have had Reason enough for it; That they ought to have us do what they please, and never to do any Thing we desire: Besides, I am confident some of the discontented Parliament-Men have been Intrigueing with the *French* Ambassador Mr. *de Barillon*; for I saw a Letter of his to Mr. *Courtin*, (which I beg of your Lordship never to take Notice of) where he says, (* *Quoyque la Cour tourne contre vous; nous nous sauverons peut estre par la Parlement, car ils ne sont pas si portées pour la guerre come on veut faire a croire.*) And they believing this here, and that the

* Tho the Court should set themselves to oppose you, yet we have good Expectations to save our selves by the Parliament, whose Inclination for the War is not so strong as has been insinuated to us.

the King cannot do what he would with his Parliament, makes them play such Tricks here with the King our Master. As to what your Lordship desires to know, When they will break upon the Terms my Lord *Dover* brought, I do absolutely conclude they will rather than agree to them, because they are so much forwarder, and better prepared for a War than we; and conclude, we cannot hurt them the first Year, especially Mr. de *Louvois* being so much a Master as he is, has out of Vanity a Mind to shew that his Care and Conduct can resist all the World. But if you can defer and bring it to a Suspension for a Year, and have Time enough to prepare for a War, the King our Master may the next Year certainly give them the Law; for the Ministers will be so divided between War and Peace, that it will quite alter the Case. Your Lordship has so great an Influence (by the Obligations he had to you, and Personal Esteem he has of you) over the Prince of *Orange*, that I am confident he will comply to what you shall make him see is the King's Interest; which I cannot think will be to enter into a War so unprovided as he is. I wish your Lordship would let me know freely the King's Intentions, as to a War, or a Peace; for if it were to a War, I might perhaps do him

a Service, I dare not venture to name, by a Letter; and if to a Peace, give you some Sight of obtaining Terms that would be very advantagious. By the Return of this Messenger, I hope for some positive Resolution. I am sorry you have taken one, of sending for my Lord *Dunblan* back; for, without Compliment, I never knew a young Man of better Disposition nor Inclination in my Life, and a Year in this Country would improve him, I am sure, much to your Satisfaction; which I should esteem my self extream happy, if I could any way contribute to, as of all other Occasions of shewing your Lordship, That no Man is with more Sincerity and Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Jan. 11, 167⅛. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I HAVE not had the Honour of any from your Lordſhip, in Anſwer to all thoſe wherein I gave you the beſt Account I could of Matters here, by the Expreſſes I ſent; nor indeed could I expect his Majeſty could take any ſudden Reſolution in Matters of ſo great Moment.

THE Occaſion of my giving you this Trouble, is to give you the beſt Light I can into the Reaſon of Mr. *Ruvigny*'s Son's Journey into *England*, who will be there perhaps as ſoon as this Letter: If his Father's Age would have permitted it, I believe they would have ſent him; for they have choſen the Son, who is to make Uſe of Lights his Father will give him; and by the near Relation he has to my Lady *Vaughan*, who is his Couſin-German, and the particular Friendſhip which Father and Son have with Mr. *William Ruſſell*, he is to be introduced into a great Commerce with the Malecontented Members of Parliament, and inſinuate what they ſhall think fit to croſs your Meaſures at Court, if they ſhall prove diſagreeable to them here, whilſt

Mr. *Barillon* goes on in his smooth Civil Way. I thought it my Duty to his Majesty, to give your Lordship this Account, though I have not explained this Matter so much in my Letter to the Secretary; wherefore, I hope, you will let this be seen by none but his Majesty. What I know farther of this, or any Thing else, you shall always be acquainted with. I am with all Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, 14 Jan. 1673. O.S.

My Lord,

I HAVE nothing to add as to the Publick to what I writ you in my last, of the 9th Instant; but I am on my own Account to acknowledge the Justice you have done me to the Ministers in that Court, who judge others by themseves; and tho' I know I lose a great deal in Reputation with them, to be thought one that will not

make

make my own Fortune upon any Terms; yet I have the Comfort of believing my Credit ſo bad with them, that it can hardly be made worſe; and I wiſh theirs was as little with others here, as it is with me. Upon that Part of your Letter to the King which ſpeaks of Money, he told me, He ſhould be glad of their Money; provided the Confederates might have ſuch a Peace as would ſatisfie them; and if Things ſhall at any Time come to that Paſs, you need not fear but your Advice of Secrecy will be taken; and the Management alſo will as certainly fall to your Share, both for the Reaſons given by your ſelf to the King, and that I ſhall very unwillingly enter into a Matter, which firſt, I believe, they will not perform, but if they ſhould, may perhaps do the King more Hurt than Good.

I fear your great Civility hath created you more Trouble with my Son *Dunblane*, than you will owne; but, I hope, he may live to pay you his Services, as I ſhall ever do am,

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, Jan. 17. 1671. O. S.

My Lord,

I DID, by my Lord *Dumbarton*, write you at large, all the Intelligence I could then give you; and there hath been nothing since worth the returning either of your Expresses withal.

MY Son *Dumbar* arrived here on *Monday* last, who delivered me your Letters, and acknowledged your very great Kindness to him; as I am to do, both for him and my self, who you have obliged so many Ways. Your Intelligence concerning Mr. *Ruvigny*, has not been the least of your Favours, and hitherto his Son's Steps have been very suitable to your Informations; for yesterday he came to me with Mr. *Bardon*, (having given me his Father's Letters the Day before) and discoursed much upon the Confidence the King hath of the Firmness of ours to him: Of the good Opinion his Master hath of me: Of his King's Resolution to condescend to any Thing that is not Infamous to him, for the Satisfaction of our King: How certainly our

our King may depend upon all Assistances and Supplies from his Master, in case the Friendship be preserved; and in short, went so far as to seem desirous to have me understand, (altho' he would not directly say it) That his Master might be brought to part with *Valenciennes* and *Condé*, but never with *Tournay*; and the main of their Drift was, to engage me to prevail with the King, to prevail with the Prince of *Orange* as to that Town; and pressed the Matter upon me, as a Thing wherein they thought I had an Interest of my own with the Prince of *Orange*, sufficient to perswade him to put an End to the War by that Means.

I ANSWERED, (as it most true) That there is nothing I am so desirous of, as the Peace; But I thought Things were gone so far, that it was only in his Majesties Power to prevent the War, and that I would contribute to any possible Expedient to that End, but that they must apply themselves to the King himself; and when it came to my Part, I should be found to contradict nothing which might be equal for Preservation of the Friendship betwixt the two Kings. Upon me they went immediately to the King; who tells me, their Discourse was the same they had held with me; and at last he desired, That whatever Expedient

they

they had to propose to him, might be put in Writing for him to consider. And thus it stands at this Time.

As to the Officer you mention, (who the King assures himself to be *Schomberg*) he hath taken farther Time to resolve of his Answer. As to our main Points of Peace and War, it will certainly depend upon the King of *France* his Consenting to the first Propositions, our King being engaged to oppose any Party that shall refuse them; nor will the Time for that Consideration be much longer, since it will be impossible but the King must come to some Declaration of his Mind to the Parliament when it meets.

That which makes the Hopes of Peace less probable, is, That the Duke grows every Day less inclined to it; and has created a greater Indifferency in the King than I could have imagined; which being added to the *French* King's Resolutions, not to part with *Tournay*, does, I confess, make me despair of any Accommodation. Nevertheless, I am assured, that one principal Cause of this Adjournment for Thirteen Days, has been to see if any Expedient for the Peace could have been found in that Time; and the Effect of the Adjournment hath hitherto been, That no Body will now believe other than that the Peace is

already

already concluded between Us and France.

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To my Lord Treasurer.

Paris, Jan. 18. 1671. N. S.

My Lord,

SINCE I sealed up my Letter by my Lord *Dunblan*, I have had one with me that is very exactly, as can be, informed of most Things here; and has told me the Reason of *Ruvigny's* Journey. His chief Errand is to let the King know, That the King of *France* did hope he was so firm to him, as not to be led away by the Grand Treasurer; he was an ambitious Man, and, to keep himself with the People, would gratifie their Inclinations by leading his Master into an unreasonable War against *France*. That as for Money, If he wanted that, he should have what he would from hence: His Instructions are, if this does not take, by the Means of *William Russell*, and other discontented People, to give a great Deal of Money, and cross all your Measures

at

at Court. When he gives you his Father's Letter of Recommendation, you cannot but be very kind to him, since the chief Part of his Journey is to do you ſuch good Offices. My Lord, if I were to give my Advice, who ſee Things upon the Place; there could be nothing better done, than after he has been two Days in *England*, for the King to give you Order to tell Mr. *Barillon*, That he knows *Ruvigny* has a Relation and Commerce with People ill-affected to the Government, and would be therefore glad to have him retire. You cannot imagine how it would damp them here when they ſhall ſee their little Tricks do not paſs upon us; and old *Ruvigny*, that values himſelf for knowing *England*, and having ſpent ſo much Money as he had, by what I told you formerly, Order to give, has given it them for a Maxim, That they muſt diſcharge your Credit before they can do any Good: But ſince their chief Quarrel to you is the being ſo juſt to your Maſter's Intereſt, I am ſure he is too juſt to let them do you any Hurt. I

If the King is for a War, you know what to do; if he hearkens to their Money, be pleaſed to let me know when they offer, and I dare undertake to get your Maſter as much again; for *Barillon*'s Orders are to make the Market as low as he can, and muſt take the Liberty to give you this Caution. I do

as to

to enter with Mr. *Barillon* upon this Matter, for he is a Creature of Mr. *Lowvoy's*. And if you send me any Orders, you must not forget to let me know of all Mr. *Barillon* has said, that I may be out in nothing; for they keep all they can from my Knowledge here, believing me so much your Lordships Servant, that they will not believe me their Friend. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treasurer.

Paris, Jan. 18. 167⅞. N.S.

My Lord,

IN my first that I writ to his Majesty, after my Arrival here, he may please to remember the Account I gave him of what Proposals Mr. *de Lowvoy* made, concerning the King our Master being contented with a great Sum of Money for himself, and not to insist upon the Restoring of

Tournay,

Tournay, *Valenciennes* and *Condé*. But I having no Power, nor Instructions, to hearken to any such Propositions, would not enter upon that Subject with him. Whereupon he told me next Day, That Mr. *Barillon* should propose to our Master a Sum of Money to relinquish his insisting in Favour of the Confederates for the Restoring of those Places: Since which Time I have had twice with me an intimate Friend of Mr. *Colbert*'s, with great Professions of Respect to the King our Master; and saying, How reasonable a Thing it was, that he, who has suffered so much in his own Kingdom for his great Friendship to the King of *France*, should share with him in the Advantages he has had by the War; and for his Part, he would contribute to his being satisfied all he could. That he knew Mr. *de Louvoy* had flung out some Offers of Money; but that was only to amuse my Master, and gain Time; for that Mr. *Louvoy* intended nothing more, than the Continuing the War; whereas he was desirous of nothing more than the Peace, as the only Thing that could best secure him, and the King his Master. That if the King, our Master, would, as an Expedient for the Peace, hearken to a great Sum of Money, and give me Power to treat with him, it should be done with all the Secrecy imaginable,

and

and the Peace made, whether Mr. *Louvoy* would or no, provided *Tournay* might remain to the King of *France*: In Consideration of which, the King our Master should have the Honour of making his Neece (*Madam's* Daughter) Queen of *France*; and for *Valenciennes* and *Condé*, such Expedients as should be secure and honourable for the *Spaniards*, and the Prince of *Orange*. And for the Sum of Money our Master should insist upon for himself, Mr. *Colbert* thinks he could make it come easier than Mr. *Louvoy*, who must come to him for it first. You see, my Lord, the Jealousie that is now between these two great Ministers. Pray send me the King's Commands, and Directions, how he would have it. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient,

and most Humble Servant,

R. MONTAGU

To my Lord Treasurer.

Paris, Feb. 26. 167. N. S.

My Lord,

THE News being here, That the *Spaniards* do intend wholly to comply with the King, our Master; and my Lord *Dunbarton* presuming, that they may give up *Ostend* to his Majesty, has desired me to beg your Lordship's good Word in his Favour. I know not who the King may intend it to, but we have few fitter for it than he; and his leaving all his Fortune so frankly as he does, out of Duty to his Master, is a sufficient Proof of his Fidelity.

The Prince of *Orange* must be mad, if he is * *Opiniatre* enough not to part with *Charlemont*, which is, nor will be when there is a Peace, of no other Use to the *French*, than a *Salvo* in Point of Honour to the King of *France*; who said, He would never agree to my Lord *Duras* his Propositions, without he had some other Place in Exchange for *Flanders*, if the Peace be made upon those Terms.

* Obstinate.

I AM sure, considering how the *French* have fortified it, it is stronger, and better able to defend it self, than if Things were brought

brought to the *Pyrenean* Treaty: And for *England*, nothing can be more honourable, and particularly to your Lordſhip; who, both at Home and Abroad, has the Reputation of the chief Inſtrument that has kept our Maſter ſo firm and reſolute in this great Affair, which muſt end ſo much to his Honour and Advantage. I am ſure, no Man ſhall ever take a greater Share in what concerns your Lordſhip than my ſelf, nor be with more Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, March 1. 167⅞. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I HAD the Honour of your Lordſhips by Mr. *Ruvigny*: I hope your Lordſhip does me the Juſtice to believe, That I would not make ſo ill a Return to the Obligation I lie under, of being truſted ſo freely by

you, as to fail in any Thing that is due to Matters of ſo great Importance. I am not ſorry for Mr. *Ruvigny*'s Journey into *England*; for the King and your Lordſhip have handled him ſo well, that he is come back fully poſſeſſed of the great Power of our Maſter to do his Hurt, as well as of a great Mark of his Friendſhip, to be willing yet to make the Peace upon the Terms propoſed by my Lord *Duras*, and wave all the Advantages he may reaſonably and probably expect by a War. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, March 3. 167$\frac{1}{1}$. *N. S.*

My Lord,

THE Count *de Bergeck* that is lately come from *Madrid*, and is to reſide in *England* as Envoy Extraordinary, has deſired my Recommendations to thoſe that were

were best with the King my Master: He pretends to have Matters of great Conſequence to propoſe; and I thought I could not addreſs him better than to your Lordſhip, as a Perſon of no Party nor Faction, nor capable of being byaſſed by any that is not for the Good of the Nation, and of the Maſter you ſerve. The Continuance of whoſe Favour I wish your Lordſhip, with all the Sincerity of one who profeſſeth ſo much as I do, the being,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient,

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, March 12. 167½. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I HOPE you will not think it impertinently officious to you, or malicious to the Duke of *Buckingham*, if, being ſo real as I am in all your Concerns, I give you an Account of ſome Things, which, when

you know, you may make what Uſe of you pleaſe. There came with me into *England*, one Mr. *de la Tolade*, whom I left ſick of the Gout: He was formerly a great Acquaintance of the Duke of *Buckingham*; and being in *England*, was much with him. You know, my Lord, how freely he ſpeaks his Mind; and he told this Man, That he did not doubt of ruining you, and being better with the King than ever: And in order to ruin you, he had conſulted his Friends, whether he had beſt make up with you or no, and that he was adviſed not to be Friends with you; and therefore deſired the King, who offered to make you Friends, not to do it. Therefore pray let not your Generoſity or good Nature ever prevail upon you enough to truſt him; but be upon your Guard, for if ever he can do you a Miſchief, he will. This ſame Man tells me, That young *Ruvigny*, by Orders from the King of *France*, has made Mr. *Barillon* ſtrike up a League with him; That they meet often privately, and that Mr. *Barillon* is much guided by him. The Duke of *Buckingham*, I find, reckons that he has the greateſt Part of the Court for him, and owns the having a Promiſe of being very ſoon again a Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber. I have had from ſeveral Hands an Overture of Reconcilement; if not, I am

to be one of the Proſcribed; and I intend to do with him what he reſolves to do with your Lordſhip, that is, not make up: And if I might be worthy to adviſe, were I in your Lordſhips Place, I would do ſo too; for I am confident you will find his Friendſhip as troubleſom, as his ill-will can be dangerous. Pray excuſe this Liberty from one that is entirely

Your Lordſhips

moſt Humble Servant,

M.

CONDITIONS *of the* PEACE *proposed by* Spain *and* Holland *to* France, March 1678. *sent then to Mr.* Mountagu, *together with the* Alterations *returned by him to the King.*

As to *France* and *Holland.*

ALL in *Europe* to be Reſtored.

France and *Spain.*

Charleroy, *Aeth*, *Audenarde*, *Condé*, *St Ghiſlain*, *Ghent*, *Ipres*, *Courtray*, *Limbourg*, *Binche*,	with their Baillages, Provoſts, Annexes, &c.

All the Places in *Sicily* to be reſtored to *Spain.*

France

France and Emperor.

All Places belonging to the Emperor, the *Empire*, or to any Princes of the *Empire*, taken by *France* during this War, to be reſtored, particularly *Fribourg*, and all the Places in *Briſgau*.

Philipsbourgh not to be reſtored, and the *Franche Comté* to remain to the King of *France*.

Dutchy of *Lorrain* to be reſtored to the Duke.

The Alterations *made in* France *to the aforeſaid Propoſitions.*

St. Ghiſlain to be demoliſhed.

Fribourg inſiſted to be kept, if *Philipsbourgh* be not reſtored.

Dutchy of *Lorrain* to be reſtored to the Duke, according to the *Pyrenean* Treaty, or elſe *Thoul* inſtead of *Nancy*, and other Advantages that ſhall ſatisfie the Duke.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, 25 *March* 1698. O. S.

My Lord,

SINCE my writing to you by Mr. *Brisbane*, the Reſolutions have been altered as to the ſending you Inſtructions as yet for the Propoſing any Thing to the *French* King.

THE Particulars which will be conſented to on the Part of the Confederates (and of which this is a Copy) will be communicated to you by Mr. Secretary *Vernon*; but you will have no other Direction from him about them, but only thereby to be enabled to find the Pulſe of that King (or his Miniſters) at leaſt againſt the Time that you ſhall receive Orders to make the Propoſals to him.

THAT you may know from whence the Nicety of this Affair proceeds, it is neceſſary to inform you, That for fear of its being ill reſented by the Parliament here, the King will not make any Propoſal at all of Peace, unleſs he ſhall be preſſed to it by the Confederates: And altho' by Mr. *Godolphin* he is ſufficiently informed, that they deſire the Peace upon the Terms ſent you by the Secretary; yet not having received

ceived that Deſire formally, the Council will not adviſe his Majeſty to let his Ambaſſador propoſe that which he is not formally impowered to make good; and ſo by ſtaying for that formal Power, which by Letter his Majeſty is ſufficiently authorized to propoſe, the Time will be loſt of effecting the Peace, if at all it can be had. To ſupply this Defect therefore, and to prevent the King's ſending again into *Holland*, before he knows the Mind of *France*, I am commanded by his Majeſty to let you know, That you are to make the Propoſitions enclоſed, to the King of *France*, and to tell him, That the King will undertake for the ſeeing them made good on the Part of *Spain* and *Holland*, in caſe they ſhall be accepted by him; and in your Anſwer, you muſt write the ſame Thing to the Secretary by way only of having felt the King's Pulſe, which you muſt do the King as a full Anſwer from the King of *France*; and ſuch a one as the King may depend upon, whatever that ſhall be. For the more dextrous Management of this Matter, the King is adviſed to ſhew thoſe Propoſitions to Mr. *Barillon*, but not to give him a Copy: So that by the Strength of Memory, it is expected he ſhall write to his Maſter, and by that Means only are we to hope for an Anſwer to a Matter of this vaſt Importance; and conſequently you may imagine what a

Satisfaction

Satisfaction we are like to reap from it when it comes.

I DOUBT not, but by your Conduct it will be brought to a ſpeedy Iſſue, which is of as great Importance as the Thing it ſelf, there being no Condition worſe for his Majeſty, than his ſtanding unreſolved betwixt Peace and War. I find by Mr. *Barillon*, That 'tis like ſome Places which are Dependencies upon greater Towns, may be demanded by the King of *France*; but if he intend the Peace, (which you will do very well to know his Mind fully in) you may juſtly ſay, You hope he will neither ſtand upon one ſingle Place, (tho' a fortified one) nor upon any Place unfortified which is a Dependant upon thoſe which are to be reſtored to *Spain*. And if any Thing ſhould be mentioned about *Nimy* to remain in the *French* Hands until the Peace of *Sweden* were concluded, you are only to ſay, That you are not empowered to ſay any Thing upon it, and you are confident the King has done all he could to get the utmoſt Propoſitions they would conſent to; only you are to ſay, That the King has again ſent about *Condé*, not being well ſatisfied that they have not left it in his Power to give or refuſe as he ſhould have found convenient, and hopes ſtill for ſome good Anſwer. In caſe the Conditions of Peace ſhall be accepted, the King expects to

have

have Six Millions of Livres a Year for three Years, from the Time that this Agreement ſhall be ſigned betwixt his Majeſty, and the King of *France*, becauſe it will probably be two or three Years before the Parliament will be in Humour to give him any Supplies after the making of any Peace with *France*; and the Ambaſſador here has always agreed to that Sum, but not for ſo long Time. If you find the Peace will not be accepted, you are not to mention the Money at all; and all poſſible Care muſt be taken to have this whole Negotiation as private as is poſſible, for fear of giving Offence at Home; where, for the moſt part, we hear in ten Days after of any Thing that is communicated to the *French* Miniſters.

I MUST again repeat to you, That whatever you write upon this Subject to the Secretary, (to whom you muſt not mention a Syllable of the Money) you muſt ſay only as a Thing you believe they would conſent to, if you had Power formally to to make thoſe Propoſitions. Pray inform your ſelf to the Bottom, of what is to be expected from *France*, and aſſure them, That you believe this will be the laſt Time that you ſhall receive any Propoſitions of a Peace, if theſe be rejected (as indeed I believe it will); ſo that you may take your

own

own Measures, as well as the King's, upon it. I am,

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DARTM.

This Letter is writ by my Order.

C. R.

To my Lord Treasurer.

Paris, March 29. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,

THE King of *France* is expected here the 8th of *April, French* Style; by which Time I may hear from your Lordship, if you have any Commands from his Majesty for me; and I may give you an Account better what his Intentions are, having it from his own Mouth, than you can have from his Ministers, who most commonly have some Reserve, and are always upon the Catch with the King our Master. I cannot tell how high, and unreasonable, these Successes may have made him;

him; but the Chancellor (with whom I had lately a great deal of Diſcourſe) ſeems more inclined to the Peace than before the Campaign, and he ſeldom ſpeaks but his Son's Mind: And in the Humour the Parliament is, methinks the King has but a ſad Proſpect of Entring into a War, and I fear they may grow weary of it before the King of *France* can be forced to give back what he offered once to reſtore, and with particular Advantages to the King himſelf. I believe it will be unneceſſary for the King, to be at the Charge of ſending over ſo much Money as forty Days Pay for *Dungannon* and *Lanier*'s Regiments; for if there were a Million of Money here, it would be impoſſible to get the Men away all together: And I have upon my own Credit, taken up enough to help away Col. *Dungannon* and *Lanier*, and ſome Men and Officers that come with them. I am with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MONTAGU.

To

To Mr. Charles Bertie.

Paris, March 29. 1678. O. S.

SIR

I AM out of Countenance at all the Troubles you are pleased to give your self in my Concerns. I have heard something of what you tell me of the Queen's Engagement to my Lady *Arlington*; but so many Things come between the Cup and the Lip, especially at Court, that till Things are done, one must never despair, no more than I do of being Secretary of State, if my Lord continues his Favour to me, and can work off Sir *William Temple*.

I KNOW for certain, That there is a great Cabal to bring in Mr. *Savile*, who writ a Letter last Post to my Lady *Cleveland*, That his Fortune depended upon her coming over, for that he had engaged his Unkle, Secretary *Coventry*, for his Place; but could not compass Money to buy it, except she got him the King's Leave to sell his Bedchamber Place, and some additional Money to help. You may let my Lord Treasurer know this, but it must be kept very secret, for else it would hinder me knowing many Things that may be for his Service. It is not very well in Mr. *Savile*, who has those

Obliga-

Obligations to my Lord Treaſurer, to manage ſuch an Affair under-hand: For my Part, I care not for the Place, except I come in with his Favour and Kindneſs. I have tried no other Ways to compaſs it, neither will I. Pray put my Lord Treaſurer in Mind of me, with the Aſſurance, That he has no Servant truer to him than my ſelf, nor more entirely,

Dear Couſin,

Your moſt Faithful

Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To Mr. Mountagu.

London, 4 April, 1678. O. S.

My Lord,

I CAN ſend you nothing from hence that is either new, or different from what I writ you laſt by Mr. *Briſbane*; but I am commanded by the King to tell you, That he would have you uſe all the Endeavours you can poſſible to get Intelligence in all the conſiderable Ports of *France*, (eſpecially *Thoulon* and *Breſt*) of what Ships

are

are in thoſe Ports; what Preparations are or ſhall be making for Shipping in any of them; and as much as can be got at any Time, of what Place they are deſigned for, or from what Place they came laſt; as alſo all other Informations you can be able to procure; and to ſettle ſuch Intelligences, if poſſible, in caſe of a War, which I do certainly expect. His Majeſty is now more particularly concerned to know, Whither thoſe Ships or Men are gone, who came from *Sicily*, which we hear the *French* have quitted; and whether my Lord *Dunbarton*'s Regiment be ſent into *Catalonia*, as is reported here.

YESTERDAY I received that Letter which gave us an Account of Mr. *Brisbane*'s Arrival with you; and we are full with Expectation of what the next Letters will bring, as being the laſt by which our Meaſures muſt be taken. In the mean time we are prepared to believe, They will bring nothing but good Words, and general Terms of Uncertainty; and by the bringing their Men from *Sicily*, and the ill Uſage of our Troops amongſt them, we conclude, That at the Bottom they intend no Peace, or none but ſuch as muſt leave *Flanders* in their Power when they pleaſe. Our Reaſon for being thus prepared is, becauſe Mr. *Barillon* did talk ſuch ſort of Language to the King laſt Night, and acknowledged to have

have a Courier newly arrived in Anſwer to what he had writ to his Maſter, which was the Subſtance of what you had to ſay to him. If it prove as we expect, I cannot tell whether the War will not be declared the next Week, that is, at the next Meeting of the Parliament.

I AM not ſo well as to write ſo largely as I would do, and as I will by the next Opportunity. I am,

My Lord,

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, April 11. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I HAVE endeavoured to obey his Majeſty's Commands, ſent me by two of your Lordſhips, with all the Speed I could: It will not be my Fault if you have an Account ſooner by Mr. *Barillon*, than by me; by whoſe Addreſs and Management, they hope here to gain their Point upon the King our Maſter.

I HAVE, at two ſeveral Times, diſcourſed with the King of *France*, the Project of Peace you ſent me: I find as to *Condé*, he reckons upon it as a ſure Thing; and for *Ipres*, he ſeems to be very poſitive in not reſtoring it. I told him, That our Maſter could not, with any Honour at Home or Abroad, conſent to any other Peace than the Liſt you ſent me contained; only promiſed his good Offices, That *Condé* might remain to him, in caſe he gave him Satisfaction to all the other Points: His Anſwer to me, after two Hours Diſcourſe; and ſhewing me in the Map how neceſſary *Ipres* was to him; * *Je voi que nous ne perſuaderons pas l'un l'autre: J'Envoyeray mes Ordres a* Barillon *ſur* Ipres *& ſur des autres choſes, dont Je ne dout point que le Roy voſtre Maiſtre ne ſoit content.* This Word *autre choſe*, I believe was the Money; of which, according to your Lordſhips Directions, having not ſuch an Anſwer to the Peace as I thought would ſatisfie, I made no Mention at all; but I think the Sum demanded is very inconſiderable, in Compariſon of the Advantage they have received, and the Prejudice our Maſter has ſuffered

* I find we ſhall never convince one another: I will ſend ſuch Orders to *Barillon* about *Ipres* and other Affairs, as I make no queſtion will be to the Satisfaction of the King your Maſter.

ſuffered for their Sakes. I am with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To Mr. Charles Bertie.

Paris, April 11. 1678. *N. S.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED the Favour of yours by Mr. *Brisbane*, and another by the Poſt. I am glad to hear there is ſuch a Rub in *Sir William Temple*'s Way.

Mr. SECRETARY *Coventry* conſented to me my ſelf the endeavouring for his Place, provided he had Ten Thouſand Pounds, which I will lay down when ever the King gives me his Conſent to come in: But I would neither venture my Money, nor give my ſelf the Trouble, were any Body but my Lord Treaſurer in the Favour and Credit he is with the King.

I KNOW all Men make Profeſſions to get their Ends: But my Lord Treaſurer has a very good Pawn for the Security of my

Firmneſs to him; ſince, beſides the Tye of Kindred and Honour, I venture my own Money; and any Body that did that, and were at Difference with him, would have laid out his Money very ill. I will make no other Steps in it, than what I have done by my Lord Treaſurer, and his Family, to whom no Body is a better Wiſher, nor a more real Servant, than my ſelf, and moſt particularly to you, whom I have always been ſo much obliged to. I am,

Your moſt Affectionate Kinſman,

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

PRAY let me know my Lord Treaſurer's Pleaſure about the Coach, and preſent my moſt humble Service to my Lady *Danby*, and your own Lady.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, April 17. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,

YOU were pleaſed to lay your Commands upon me, That I ſhould give you an Account, as near as is poſſible for me

me to gueſs, of the laſt Terms they would be brought to conſent to here for a preſent Peace. I did, in my laſt, give you my Opinion, That they would inſiſt upon the Keeping of *Ipres*; but that if the King our Maſter were firm and reſolute to have it reſtored, they would yield to it, rather than have him come to a Declaration of War. I have (ſince another Converſation I have had with the King of *France*) more Reaſon to be confirmed in the ſame Opinion: Far different from what he uſed to be, he grew mighty hot and paſſionate upon the Subject of *Ipres*, rather like one that was angry and diſpleaſed that he was obliged to part with a Thing he had a Mind to keep, than that he had ſeriouſly and poſitively reſolved to keep it. His great Argument was, That he was ſure that the *Spaniards* and *Hollanders* would be glad of the Peace; nay, that they had offered it without *Ipres* or *Condé*; and he ended with me, ſaying, * *J'Eſpere que le Roy voſtre Maiſtre ne me fera pas la guerre pour* Ipres, *& que Je le trouveray plus raiſonable que vous.* The next Day Mr. *Courtin*, and one *St. Roman* (who are great Confidents of Mr. *Louvoy*) were with me, and told me of all that had paſſed between the

* I hope the King your Maſter will not enter into War againſt me, on the account of *Ipres*, and that I ſhall find him more reaſonable than you.

King and me, and desired me, That I would not * *Esbauffer* (that was the Expression) *les choses en* Angleterre, *que si Monsieur le Grand Treasurier vouloit laisser faire Mr.* Barillon, *le Roy d'*Angleterre *se rellacheroit sur* Ipres, and that I should oblige the King here, † *a des Grandes reconnoissances en mon particulier.* This is the Bottom, my Lord, of all I can find out here. If the King finds the Ambassador in *England* does not satisfie him, methinks he should be very round (as they say) with him; and give me such Orders to speak here, as they may take to be the last Time of Asking. I will trouble your Lordship no longer, but remain with all Respect,

* Exasperate Matters in *England*; and that if my Lord High Treasurer would be quiet, and suffer Mr. *Barillon* to treat alone, the King of *England* might be brought off from insisting upon the Restitution of *Ipres*.

† Particularly to acknowledge my Service herein.

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, May 16. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,

HERE is now nothing worth the giving you an Account of, the King being gone away in very good Humour, upon the Aſſurance, I believe, he has of having ſuch a Peace from the *Dutch* as he deſires, which has been managed underhand by great Preſents to thoſe that are not Well-wiſhers to the Prince of *Orange*. I have, in order to your laſt Commands, endeavoured, in caſe of a War, to inform his Majeſty both of the Number of Ships the *French* are likely to have at Sea, as well as the Strength of their Sea-Coaſt. I have ſent two Perſons, who were both Officers, and are caſhiered for Want of Money to make up their Companies: They have both ſerved upon the Sea-Coaſts thoſe Years that the *Dutch* came, as if they would have made ſome Deſcent. I have ſent one to all the Ports of *Normandy* and *Brittany*, the other to *Rochel*, and the River of *Charent*. If there is a War, they offer to come and ſerve upon the Fleet, and go where-ever the *Engliſh* may think to Land; and in that Caſe, I have anſwered, The King will pro-

vide a Subſiſtence as long as they live. In the mean Time, I have put the King to no farther Charge, than to pay their Expences for them, and their Servant, each of them for the Time they ſhall be out: I know that they are ſo exact in all the Sea-Ports to all Strangers that come, that there is no employing any *Engliſh-man* in this; for he would certainly be taken, and uſed as a Spy. Whether thoſe I have employed will be honeſt, I cannot tell; but in theſe Caſes it muſt be ventured. I am with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, June 4. 1678. N. S.

My Lord,

SOME People are ſo unlucky as to have ſo few Friends, that I hope you will not have the worſe Opinion of me, if for that Reaſon I am obliged to recommend my

my ſelf to your Lordſhips Favour; of which I confeſs already to have had a greater Share, than by my Services I can pretend to have deſerved. What I beg it in now, may perhaps put me in a Condition of being more uſeful and ſerviceable to your Lordſhip, in all your Concerns, than I can be whilſt I remain ſo inſignificant as I am now. When I was in *England*, I took the Liberty to propoſe to your Lordſhip, my coming into Mr. Secretary *Coventry*'s Place; but finding you lay then under ſome Obligation to Sir *William Temple*, I wholly ſubmitted my Pretenſion to your Lordſhips Pleaſure; not caring or believing it was, or is poſſible to compaſs it without your good Liking,

I PRESUME the Meaſures Sir *William Temple* may have given his Majeſty of late in the Politicks, may have a little worked off that Engagement which I am ſure your Favour only made the King think he had to him; and without flattering you as to your Wiſdom, you have ſhewed your ſelf too good a Lord Treaſurer to adviſe the King to give Ten Thouſand Pounds for Sir *William Temple*; ſo that now his chief Merit is your Lordſhips great Nicety of your Word; which I am ſure any ſtrict Caſuiſt, in Honour, would in this Caſe abſolve you from. Mr. Secretary *Coventry* is willing to reſign

reſign to me, if the King will conſent; and I will lay down Ten Thouſand Pounds to ſatisfie him, without the King's being at any Charge. I have no Friend, nor will make no Application in this Matter to any Perſon but your ſelf; to whom I had rather owe it, than to any Body living; and I am ſure you can recommend no Body who will always be with more Truth and Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, July 1. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I AM extreamly aſhamed, That your Lordſhip ſhould have given your ſelf the leaſt Trouble in the Explaining of the Reaſons, Why at that Time the King did not conſent to my coming over: If I had had his Leave, conſidering what has fallen out, I

ſhould

ſhould not have made uſe of it 'till I had ſeen this Difficulty of Surrendring the Towns over one Way or other: But I have had too much Experience of your Lordſhips Favour and Kindneſs to me, to imagine you could be againſt a Thing which I never deſired, but by your Approbation; and in which, I hope, I have carried my ſelf with all the Regard and Reſpect imaginable to your Lordſhip. I am very unlucky, That your Lordſhips Engagements to Sir *William Temple*, are like to deprive me of your Protection and Aſſiſtance in my Pretenſions, it being a Thing in which I am confident his Majeſty will be ſo wholly directed by you in, that it will be in vain for me to make the leaſt Step in it: If you do not find your ſelf free enough to recommend me, all I beg of your Lordſhip is to believe, That what will happen, it ſhall not at all alter the Profeſſions I have made, of being, with all Truth and Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. Mountagu.

YOUR Lordſhip will ſee, by my Letter to the Secretary, the Reſolutions of this Court, to keep the Towns till *Sweden* be ſatisfied, which makes me not give you the Trouble of repeating the ſame over again.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Aug. 1678. *Monday*, Nine at Night.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the Leave you are pleaſed to give me to trouble you in my Concerns, I take the Liberty to acquaint you, That Mr. *de Barillon* and *Ruvigny* ſaid in ſome Company, and a Man that was there came in Kindneſs, and told me, * *Quoyque Mr. de Mountagu a eſchappé la Tour, le Roy la mettera hors du Conſeil:* There is nothing the King can do to me ſo bad as that, for it keeps me from coming to Court ſurer than any Thing: Wherefore I beg the Continuance of your Lordſhips Favour to me; and that between this and *Wedneſday* you will be pleaſed to find out by the King if he intends

* Altho' Mr. *Mountagu* has eſcaped being ſent to the Tower, the King will put him out of the Council.

intends any ſuch Thing. Your Lordſhips taking me into your Protection, is enough to put a Stop to it, and to oblige me to all the Acknowledgments, whereby I may ſhew the Service and Reſpect I owe you, who am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and Humble Servant,

R. MOUNTAGU.

PARTI-

PARTICULAR REMARKS

On some of

Mr. *Mountagu's* LETTERS

In the Years 1677 and 1678.

Which deserve a more particular Notice to be taken of them.

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* *Page* 1. * *JUNE* 21. 1677. In his Letter to the King, he gives him his Advice about Money, and tells him the Advice he had given to Mr. *Ruvigny*, to offer the King Three Millions, and proposes to get the King a Million of Livres during the War, and Four Millions after the

the Peace ſhall be made, over and above what the King had then from *France*; which, in that Letter, he ſays was Three Millions a Year: And in the ſame Letter he tells him, That Mr. *Ruvigny* told him, that he found moſt of his Majeſties Miniſters to be againſt *France*, but particularly the Lord Treaſurer. He ſays alſo, That he knows not who the King would truſt in that Affair, but deſires that the King would truſt me in it: That till then he had tranſacted the Money-Affair with the Lord *Arlington*; and that if the King did not think fit to truſt me in it, he deſires that his Siſter might ſee that Letter burnt. By all which it appears, That this was the firſt Time of my knowing any Tranſactions about *French* Money; as alſo, That he would not truſt the King himſelf with the burning of his Letter, unleſs his Siſter ſaw it done.

* *July* 15 and † 16. two of my Letters to Mr. *Montagu*, both which were found in his Cabinet, and were read at the Council-Table by Prince *Rupert*, and were then ſealed up, and are now among the Council-Papers: By which appears, That till his aforeſaid Letter of *June* 21, I knew not what had been received from *France*, nor that Mr. *Chiffinch* had been the

* *P.* 7.
† *P.* 9.

the Receiver of it; and obſerves that I was for Cudgelling them into better Meaſures with *England*, inſtead of having their Money, which I there declare I thought could not make any Recompence, and I am glad that the Originals of both my Letters are to be found amongſt the Council-Papers.

* P. 13. 17. * *Auguſt* 12. *N. S.* Two Letters of the ſame Date, but I was to ſhew but one of them to the King; in which he mentions the Propoſitions made to him of great Advantage offered to me; and he ſhews the King, that it would be his Majeſties Fault, and not his, if he had not Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling: And in that of the ſame Date, which I was not to ſhew to the King, he wiſhes me Joy of Mr. *Chiffinch*'s being the *French* Treaſurer.

* P. 18. * *Auguſt* ::. My Anſwer to the two Letters of 12 *Auguſt*, *N. S.* where I thank him for the Anſwers he gave to the *French* Miniſters about the Advantages offered to my ſelf.

* P. 20. * *Auguſt* 28. Wherein he only fears the good Nature of our Friend (meaning the King) to ſpoil the Buſineſs of the Money.

* *Auguſt*

* *August* 30. He owns he has his Orders from the King himſelf for 200000 *l.* and again repeats it to be the King's own Fault if he have not that Sum; but if he has condeſcended to Two Millions, he is ſure he can bring on his firſt Propoſition of Four Millions after the Peace. * *P.* 21.

* *September* 25. To the King: Wherein he adviſes his Majeſty what to ſay to the *French* Ambaſſador about the Money, and to refer him to me. * *P.* 26.

* *Septemb.* 25. Two Letters of the ſame Date, one of which I was to ſhew to the King: Wherein he puts his Majeſty in Mind, That his Demands about Money had been by his Majeſties Commands, under his own Hand-writing; but that they ſuſpected in *France*, that the Orders had rather come from me, than from the King, becauſe more was demanded than the King had conſented to take: And in his other Letter of the ſame Date to me, which I was not to ſhew to the King, he mentions Mr. *Courtin*'s falſe Repreſentation of my being privy to the King's Debates with him about Money; and that he * *P.* 29, 30.

came to the Knowledge of it by a Letter from Mr. *Courtin* to Mr. *Pompone*, which Mr. *Pompone* had ſhewed him, but was ſorry after he had ſhewed it; and then mentions that I have formerly ſaid I would have them cudgell'd into a better Behaviour; next to which, he takes the getting their Money to be the beſt Aſcendant over *France*.

* *P.* 36. * *October* 12. To the King again, about the Money; and continuing his Advice to have the Ambaſſador referr'd to me.

* *P.* 34. * In his Letter of the ſame Date to me, after his over-great Compliments, he thinks to oblige me by ſaying, He had played this Buſineſs into my Hands; and tells me, How unſatisfied Mr. *Courtin* was returned into *France* by his ill Treatment here, and the ſmall Preſent that was made him at his Departure from *England*.

* *P.* 38. * *Decemb.* 29. To the King, mentioning the great Offers of Money made to his Majeſty, and to make my Fortune; and adviſes, That theſe Matters ſhould be managed by me in *England*, and by him in *France*.

Note,

Note, That theſe laſt Offers were made ſoon after the Marriage of the Lady *Mary* to the Prince of *Orange*, which was but about ſix Weeks before that Letter.

* *January* 1. 167½. He owns he had no Inſtructions, but to inſiſt upon the Reſtitution of the Towns, and yet tempts the King to accommodate himſelf with Money. * P. 43.

* *January* 8. 167½. His Thanks for *Geddington* Woods, *&c.* * P. 46.

* *January* 10. To the King, about a Suſpenſion of Arms, and about a Propoſal of marrying *Madam* (his Siſter's Daughter) to the Dauphine of *France*, and his ſtrong Perſwaſions to it. * P. 48.

* Another of the ſame Date to me; in which he ſays, He is confident that ſome of the diſcontented Parliament-Men had been Intriguing with Mr. *Barillon*; and that he had ſeen a Letter of his to Mr. *Courtin* to that Purpoſe, who writes, That altho' the Court turns againſt them, they hope to ſave themſelves by the Parliament: And he ſays farther, That they * P. 50.

believing in *France* that our King cannot do what he would with his Parliament, makes them play such Tricks as they do with our Master; and takes my Interest to be so great with the Prince of *Orange*, that I might perswade him, if I would, not to enter into a War so unprovided as the King was at that Time.

* P. 53. * *January* 11. He gives Notice of young Mr. *Ruvigny's* (now Earl of *Gallway*) Journey into *England*, viz. to converse amongst the discontented Parliament-Men, and particularly some of his Relations in *England*.

* P. 54. * *January* 14. Mine, to thank him for the Justice he did me in his Answer to the *French* Ministers, which he writ to the King in his of the 29th of *December* last; and I them heartily wish, that my Master would give as little Credit to any Thing that comes from that Court, as I do; and I assure him, That the Management of the Money-Affair will be wholly left to him as he desires.

* P. 56. * *January* 17. Mine, with Thanks for his Intelligence about Mr. *Ruvigny*, and to assure him, That the King will oppose any Party that shall refuse those

Conditions for a Peace which were ſent by my Lord *Duras*.

* *January* 18. Informing me, that *Ruvigny*'s chief Errand was, to tell our King, That the King of *France* hoped that he was ſo firm to him, as not to be led away by me for the Reaſons he gives in that Letter; but that if I wanted Money, I ſhould have what I would; and he ſays, his Inſtructions are, if this will not do with me, then to apply to the diſcontented Parliament-Men by Money, or any other Way. He alſo ſays, That Old *Ruvigny* has given it them for a Maxim, That they muſt diminiſh my Credit before they can do any Good in *England*: And farther ſays, That they keep all they can from his Knowledge, becauſe they believe him to be ſo much my Friend; and at laſt he ends that Letter, ſaying, That if the King hearkens to their Money, if he knows what they offer, he dare anſwer to get as much again. * P. 59.

* In another of the ſame Date, *viz.* 18 *Jan.* 167$\frac{7}{8}$. he ſaith, He hath no Power or Inſtructions to hearken to any Propoſitions of Money; yet adviſes to go that Way by *Colbert*, as before he had done from *Louvoy*; and there mentions again a Match with the Dauphine of *France* * P. 61.

for the King's Neece. And I cannot but here take Notice, with some Wonder, of the House of Commons refusing to let this Letter, and another of the * 11th *Ditto*, be read, when I sent them to the House to vindicate my self by such manifest Proofs, how far I was from being in the *French* Interest.

* P. 53.

* P. 64. * *February* 26. Where he tells me, That both at Home and Abroad I have the Reputation of having been the chief Instrument in keeping our King so firm and resolute to the Propositions sent by my Lord *Duras*.

* P. 65. * *March* 1. He takes Notice, That Mr. *Ruvigny* had been so handled here, both by the King and my self, that he was return'd with a very different Opinion from what he was in when he went from *France*.

* P. 66. *March* 3. His Opinion of me, That I was of no Party nor Faction,

* P. 67. *March* 12. His Information by one Mr. *de la Tolade*, of the Duke of *Buckingham*'s not doubting to ruin me; and that Young *Ruvigny* has Orders from the King of *France*, to make Mr. *Bardlow* strike

ſtrike up a League with the Duke of *Buckingham*, and that they meet often privately.

* *March* 25. 1678. This is the Letter on which I was impeached in Parliament, and to which no *Engliſhman* could have taken the leaſt Exception, unleſs it were to that Part which relates to the Money; and yet, as to that Part of it, it was only writ in Obedience to the King's Commands, (who ſigned the Inſtructions of that Letter, as he might legally do under the Limitations therein given himſelf). But in the ſame Letter I both writ, That if the Propoſitions for a Peace, which were then ſent to Mr. *Mountagu*, were not accepted, there ſhould be no Mention made at all of the Money; And what I writ therein as from my ſelf, and not from the King, was, That I did believe that thoſe Propoſitions would be rejected; and that therefore he might take his own Meaſures, as well as the King's upon it. And accordingly, thoſe Propoſals about the Money were never made, nor did the King ever receive a Farthing after that, notwithſtanding all the Aſſurances Mr. *Mountagu* had ſo often repeated to him, of having at leaſt Four Millions after any Peace ſhould be concluded. And in his Anſwer to my ſaid * P. 72.

Letter of 25 *March* 1678. * (which is dated *April* 11. *N. S.*) inſtead of thinking the King's Demands of Six Millions of Livres to be any Crime, he ſpeaks how inconſiderable a Sum that Demand is, in Compariſon of the Advantage they have received, and our Maſter hath ſuffered for their Sakes. And Sir *William Temple* takes Notice, in his Letter of 27 *Jan.* 167½. from the *Hague*, That the Foreign Miniſters there did wonder it ſhould be thought a Crime in any Miniſter to get Money for his Maſter from any other Prince, when he was to do nothing for it, but to conſent to ſuch a Peace as his Allies deſired: And yet in the King my Maſter's Caſe, he thought the Peace the Confederates made within four Months after, was ſo bad a one, that it was never ſigned by the *Engliſh* Plenipotentiaries, which gave the *French* King a juſt Cauſe to have refuſed the King any Money, if ever it had been demanded; and yet that Clauſe in my Letter was made an Article of Treaſon againſt me, who am only ſorry that the King did not get the Money, altho' Mr. *Montagu* would have deſerved much the greateſt Thanks for it.

* *March* 29. He repreſents the ſad Proſpect he thinks our King has, of Entring into a War in the Humour the

* P. 81.

* P. 86.

the Parliament then was: * And in a Letter of the ſame Date to Mr. *Charles Bertie*, he ſolicites, That I would work off Sir *William Temple* from being Secretary of State, which he then feared.

* P. 78.

* *April* 4. (which is but Ten Days after the aforeſaid Letter of 25 *March*, for which I was accuſed) I tell him, That I certainly expect the War will be declared the next Week; inſomuch that he knew my Opinion, That there would be a War (in which Caſe no Mention was to be made of Money) before he could write me an Anſwer to my aforeſaid Letter of 25 *March*, to which I did not receive his Anſwer till the 11th of *April*, which I have quoted before; and wherein he thinks the Sum demanded by the King to be ſo inconſiderable; and by this Letter, he ſaw that was not to be demanded at all.

* P. 79.

* *April* 11. Beſides his Letter to me of that Date, (which I have quoted) he writes another to † Mr. *Charles Bertie*, wherein he offers Ten Thouſand Pounds for Secretary *Coventry*'s Office.

* P. 81.

† P. 83.

* *April* 17. He ſays, That Mr. *Courtin*, &c. had been with him, and had deſired him not to exaſperate Things betwixt

* P. 84.

betwixt the King of *France* and our King; and that if I would be quiet, and let Mr. *Berillan* treat with the King alone, our Master would quit insisting any longer upon their Rendition of the Town of *Ipres*.

* *May* 16. It appears by his Answer, That instead of Treating for Money, he owns, That he was pursuing the Orders he had received for getting Intelligence in all the Ports of *France* about their Shipping, &c. in order to a War.

* P. 87.

* *June* 4. He writes to me in a very pressing Manner, to get Secretary *Coventry*'s Place, (giving him Ten Thousand Pounds for it) and makes some Reflections upon Sir *William Temple* to prevent his having it.

* P. 88.

* *July* 1. He writes me a Letter, wherein he expresses a civil Resentment for his not being made Secretary, and from thence he begins his Displeasure against me; and in the next Month he came back into *England* without the King's Leave, which was the Occasion of his Cabinet being searched afterwards, upon some Intelligence that had been given to the King concerning him by Mr. *Oliverians*, the *Swedish* Ambassador.

* P. 90.

* *August*.

* *August*, dated only *Monday* Nine at Night, being come privately to *London* without the King's Knowledge; and I not ſuſpecting his Deſigns againſt me, did ſolicit the King, and prevailed with him to let him ſee him, and kiſs his Hand; which he did accordingly in private, by my Introduction at an Houſe, then called *Hamden-Houſe*, adjoyning to the *Cockpit*. * P. 92.

About a Month after that Time, I had ſeveral private Informations given me of his ſecret Intriguing with ſeveral Parliament-Men, and of the *French* Ambaſſador *Barillon* being always privy to thoſe private Negotiations; and two Gentlemen, who were then of that Parliament, owned to me, That he had ſhewed them my Letter of 25 *March* above Two Months before he produced it to the Parliament; and there are at this Time many living Witneſſes of his almoſt daily Meetings with Mr. *Barillon* at his Siſter the Lady *Harvey's* Houſe, when I was under the Accuſation of the Parliament for being in the *French* Intereſt; and when I ſent his two Letters, dated the 11th and 18th of *January* 1678. to the Houſe of Commons, to have been read there, I was refuſed to have that ſmall Piece of Juſtice done me.

Note,

Note, That in Ten ſeveral Letters before the 29th of *March* 1678. (on which I was accuſed) *viz. June* 21. 1677. *July* 12. 1677. *August* 28. 1677. *August* 30. 1677. *Sept.* 21. 1677. *Oct.* 12. 1677. *Decemb.* 29. 1677. *Jan.* 1. 1677. *Jan.* 10. 1677. and *Jan.* 18. 1677. Mr. *Mountagu* both propoſed and encouraged the King to have Money from *France*, and ſeveral Times repeats, That it would be the King's own Fault if he had not the Sums which had been propoſed; ſo that it was not to be wondred that the King ſhould give me his Orders to write to Mr. *Mountagu*, to get the Money if he could, and eſpecially when it was not to be demanded without thoſe Propoſitions for a Peace were conſented to, which were ſent by the Lord *Duras*, Mr. *Mountagu* having never received any Powers or Inſtructions to treat about a Peace, but upon the Terms of the ſaid Propoſitions ſent by the Lord *Duras*, and deſired by the Confederates: Inſomuch, that if the King would have permitted me to have produced Mr. *Mountagu*'s Letters, the Crime of Endeavouring to get Money from *France*, (if it could be called a Crime under the Circumſtances aforeſaid)

ſaid) would have been laid to Mr. *Mountagu*'s Charge, and not to me, as I told the King when he offered me his Pardon: But was anſwered by his Majeſty, That I owed him more Duty than to expoſe his and his Ambaſſadors Letters of private Negotiations betwixt him and the King of *France*; and he was ſure I would not be guilty of ſuch a perfidious Baſeneſs to him, as *Mountagu* had been.

In ſeveral of the aforeſaid Ten Letters, as well as in divers others of his, I have his frequent Teſtimonials, not only of my conſtant Averſion to the *French* Intereſt; but of his own having no Credit in that Court, becauſe he was taken to be ſo much my Friend. That old *Ruvigny* had told him, That he found moſt of the Miniſters in *England* againſt *France*, and particularly the Lord Treaſurer; and had fixed it for a Maxim in that Court, That they muſt diminiſh my Credit before they could do any Good in *England*. That I was for Cudgelling them into better Terms with us, and how ill the *French* Miniſters complained they were always treated by me: That therefore young *Ruvigny*'s Journey into *England* was only to hurt me: So that if Mr. *Mountagu* will paſs for good Evidence, I ſhould need no better than

than himſelf alone to vindicate me, both as to *French* Money, and being in the *French* Intereſt: But I thank God, that, as to the laſt, I have many more Witneſſes, *viz.* the Prince of *Orange*, Lord *Sunderland*, Sir *William Temple*, and Mr. *Brisbane*, (then Agent at *Paris*) whoſe Letters teſtify ſufficiently in my Behalf.

IT is not eaſy to comprehend, how a Parliament ſhould be brought to vote the Matters contained in my Letter of 25th of *March* 1678. to be Treaſon, if I had had no Authority for the writing it (there being nothing illegal in it). And it is not leſs difficult to conceive, how that Parliament ſhould be thought a Penſionary-Parliament, which was not only ſo ſparing in the Supplies which were neceſſary, and did appropriate every Penny to particular Uſes upon Account: And that I, who was called the Promoter and Paymaſter of thoſe Penſions, had not Power to preſerve my ſelf from being impeached of Treaſon by thoſe Penſioners, for what in Juſtice my worſt Enemies could not have made a Miſdemeanor.

THESE are ſuch Contradictions in their own Nature, that they need no Anſwer: But I do not wonder that my Pleading a

Pardon,

Pardon, and Abſenting my ſelf for ſome Time, might juſtly make both Parliament and Nation believe, that I thought my ſelf guilty of ſome great Crime.

BUT as I hope I have made appear, That I neither needed a Pardon, nor to have abſented my ſelf from Trial; but that I did both in Obedience to the King's Commands; ſo I verily believe, the King was ſo apprehenſive, that the producing of thoſe Letters would have ſo much heightned the ill Humour of that Parliament, that the Fear of producing them (which I muſt have done, rather than ſuffer the Bill of Attainder to paſs againſt me) was one of the Cauſes of diſſolving that Parliament.

I HAVE hereto added an *Information*, which was written to Mr. *Charles Bertie* out of *France* by Mr. *Brisbane*, concerning Mr. *Mountagu*; and a *Narrative* concerning him, given by a Gentleman now living, to another Gentleman who gave it me; and ſhews Mr. *Mountagu*'s Tranſactions with Mr. *Barillon* in *October* and *November* 1678. and I deſire that theſe Meetings with Mr. *Barillon*, and the then angry Parliament-Men, may be compared with Mr. *Mountagu*'s Letters of the 10th, 11th, and 18th of *January* in the ſame Year: In every one of

of which, he gives me Intelligence of the Meetings of the *French* Ambaſſadors with the diſcontented Parliament-Men, to diſturb the King's Affairs in Parliament, and to hurt me, and (as he calls it) to break my Meaſures at Court; as alſo to obſerve, That his Meetings with Mr. *Barillon*, &c. were at the very ſame Time when he made me the Inſtrument of getting the King to excuſe his Returning into *England* without the King's Leave, whilſt he was his Majeſties Ambaſſador in *France*. Of all which Proceedings of his, there are yet divers living Witneſſes.

Mr.

Mr. Brisbane's Information *to Mr.* Charles Bertie, 14 Jan. 1679.

MY Lady *Cleveland* ſays, That Mr. *Mountagu* hath long deſigned my Lord Treaſurer's Ruin, and would have put her upon it. One *Puymoran*, a great Friend of Mr. *Mountagu*, hath a Letter from him excuſing his Proceedings. He ſpeaks at Court his Reaſons, which are no other but that my Lord Treaſurer perſecuted him: To which I give the Lye by what I know.

I AM ſure there is great Joy here for my Lord Treaſurer's Troubles, and nothing will be ſpared to break him. I have told you ſo long ago.

A Copy of that Gentleman's Narrative *before-mentioned, concerning Mr.* Mountagu, *who was preſent with him at all the Times and Places which are mentioned in the ſaid* Narrative.

MR. *Mountagu* having obtained his ſecond Embaſſy to *France*, his Siſter the Lady *Harvey*, the latter end of *Auguſt* 1677, went over to him, and ſtayed all the Winter, till *April* following. Upon her Return, ſhe was immediately viſited by the *French* Ambaſſador Mr. *Barillon*, who conſtantly afterwards made his very frequent Viſits almoſt every Morning. The Parliament then ſitting, a great Noiſe was about Town of a Bargain made by ſome Body for a Peace, inſtead of a War with *France*. In *Auguſt* following, Mr. *Mountagu* came ſuddenly and privately over, and was immediately met at his Siſter's by Mr. *Barillon*, where they generally were four or five Times a Week privately together. I being a Fellow at that Time of general Acquaintance

tance about Town, and much in the Company of Members of Parliament, and affecting much to hear and tell News; and having for about ten Years before been very converſant with them, tranſacting a great deal of Buſineſs for them both, they ſometimes talked freely to me of Affairs at Court, *&c.* Amongſt other Things, when they talked of *French* Money encreaſing in the Town; I telling her what I heard of it, ſhe freely told me, She was clearly for her Brother's driving the Bargain, and that ſhe told him ſo when ſhe was with him there: For if they would have Money (ſaid ſhe), why ſhould not he have ſome of it, as well as any Body elſe? And a great deal more to that Effect, *&c.*

IN the Beginning of *October* 1678, being out of Town, they ſent after me in great Haſte: And tho' 'twas late at Night when I came Home, and from a long Journey too; yet at a Meeting with Mr. *Mountagu* at his Siſter's the next Morning, they deſired me to poſt away immediately into *Suſſex*, to *Lewis* and *Greenſtead*, to try my Skill to get him choſen a Member of Parliament for *Greenſtead*, that was then to ſit the 21ſt of that Month: But if I found no Probability of doing it there, to return immediately, for he muſt get in ſomewhere for a Member of that Houſe of Commons.

I FOUND no Likelihood of it there, came back, took Poſt for *Northampton*, where he was choſen.

I DID not know then the Reaſon of his being ſo earneſt to be a Member of the Houſe of Commons; but often thought on't, becauſe I had often heard him, upon all Occaſions, talk contemptibly of them. But it appeared afterwards.

VERY frequent Councils were then held betwixt the two Ambaſſadors and the Lady, and all the Intelligence I could pick up, I brought them; and it was then propoſed to me, to accept of a Penſion of about 100 *l. per Annum* from the *French* Ambaſſador. I asked, What I was to do for it? They told me at firſt but indifferent Things, as the Votes of the Houſe as ſoon as might be (for they were then not Printed), and Intelligence from the Clerks of the Council, *&c.* and, as a *Premium*, I had of him Thirty Guinea's by the Lady's Hand: But not anſwering his Expectations, I ſaw no more; for it went againſt me to diſcover any Thing of Moment that was *Engliſh* to the *French*, whom I always hated.

UPON the News and Heats that were in the Houſe, about ſeizing Mr. *Mountagu*'s Papers at his Houſe; My Lady *Harvey* firſt told me, Her Brother was very much afraid of being ſent to the Tower. I told her, I thought

thought not, the Parliament ſitting. She replied, My Lord *Danby* would cauſe a Diſſolution or Prorogation, and he would then be ſnapt: And therefore deſired me, (for ſhe told me they had talked about it, and he alſo would ſpeak to me) That I would be as quick among all my Friends and Companies as I could poſſible, to make the firſt Diſcovery, if ſuch a Thing were intended, and to be always every Day about the Houſe; and if I got the leaſt Inckling of it, to ſend for him out, and clap a Cloak about him (which I was enjoin'd not to be without) and carry him away by Water into *London*, or where elſe I thought fit; *he* reſolving to truſt himſelf, his Life, and all he had, with me, before any Body about or that belonged to himſelf, they being (as ſhe term'd them) all Fools and Knaves, ſome of them every Day drinking, or playing at Cards with *Danby*'s People; that if he were not the greateſt Beaſt in the World, he would not keep ſuch Fellows about him. He himſelf ſpoke to me to the ſame Purpoſe, and ſwore he had no Mind to eat Meat of others dreſſing, where he muſt either eat Poiſon, or ſtarve.

THE Parliament broke up on a *Monday* Morning: He had Notice of it, and did not come to the Houſe. I waited there, got what Intelligence I could, and made what

Obſervations I could, and went to him to a Houſe in *Fleet-ſtreet*, where he had withdrawn himſelf. From thence I took him into *London*, to a Friend of mine in *Lime-ſtreet*, where I kept him about Two or Three and twenty Days; in which Time, I privately carried ſeveral of his Friends to him, amongſt others, Mr. *Barillon*. The Nights being then long, and dark, we went often out to ſome Tavern, or private Houſe of my Acquaintance; where the *French* Ambaſſador, and others of his Friends, ſeveral Times met him.

THE Viſits at that Time from the Ambaſſadors, were very frequent to Lady *Harvey*, who never failed once a Day to bring him the Reſult of them, or what elſe ſhe had. After he had been thus ſecreted about Ten or Twelve Days, he told me, He was reſolved if he muſt be a Priſoner, it ſhould be at large; He would go over Sea, and asked me, If I could ſecurely hire a Veſſel on the *Exchange*, and would go with him? I told him, I could and would wait on him wherever he pleaſed. The next Day I gave him an Account, That a ſtout Ship of *Dort* of 130 Tuns, ſhould be ready for him him in two Days, a *Dutch-man* Maſter that I knew, and would undertake for him. Which was done, and I cauſed her to fall down, clear her ſelf at *Graveſ-*

end,

end, and lie for us in the hither Side the *Hope*. Having reſolved at laſt (for he was very irreſolute and fearful) that he would go, and the Time, I ordered the Maſter to wait for us, with his Boat's Crew, at a certain Place below the Block-Houſes at Night. In the Morning we took Coach, and at the Halfway-Houſe to *Deptford* met Sir *Thomas Armſtrong*, who waited for us, with another Gentleman, a Groom, and two Spare-Horſes with Arms for us two. We got on Board well that Evening, immediately weighed, and ſtood as far as we could that Tide: Next Day we got into *Margate*-Road; the Wind chopt upon us, and in the Night it proved a great Storm: We loſt our Boat adrift about Midnight, which frighted him much. In the Morning he asked me, What I intended to do with him? I told him, We had good Anchors and Cables, and could ride it out without any Danger in the World. He would not; but told me, He had rather I would throw him into the Sea, than keep him there in that Condition, for he was very ſick. I would have gone away for *Holland*; for we could have done it, but he would not; ſo we run back that Night into *Queenborough*-Water, where it was very quiet. He had then a Mind to go aſhore to ſleep a Night, and in the Morning would go by

Land to *Dover*. I promiſed to ſecure him thither; but could not there, becauſe I thought he was well known. He had a thouſand Reſolutions. I left him at *Canterterbury*, and rode that Night to *Dover*, and hired a ſmall Boat to put us over at *Calais* or *Bologne*, or any where on that Shore, which was to have taken us on Board the next Night at Twelve from the Beach. I fetched him from *Canterbury* at the Time; and as we were ſtepping into the Boat, were ſeized by Officers that lay in wait for us, we having been before diſcovered by one of the Boat's Crew, were made Priſoners there about ſix Days, till Orders came from Court. We gave Security to a Writ, *Ne exeat Regnum*, and came for *London*; but juſt at the Towns-end, were frighted again by a Note from his Siſter, that told him, If he were yet at Liberty, he would do well to take Care, and keep himſelf ſo; for Reſolutions had been taken at Court the Night before, to make him cloſe Priſoner.

THIS made him leave his Coach and Servants juſt at *Kent-ſtreet* End ſo privately, that but one or two of them knew of it; and through the Gardens I carried him to *Redriff*, croſſed the Water to *Wapping*, and by that Time he believed himſelf ſafe again.

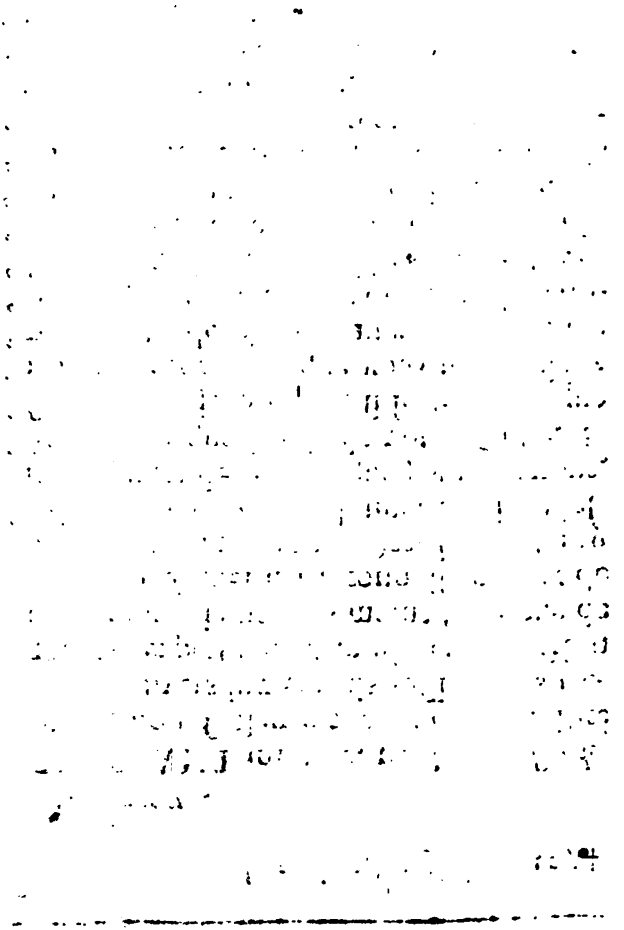
I BROUGHT

I BROUGHT him to *Aldgate* in the Evening, took Coach, and went with him to *Bloomsbury-Square*. He ſate in the Coach whilſt I went to my Lord *Ruſſel*'s, and to his own Houſe, to give his Lady an Account that he was well, and ſafe. I lodged him that and the *Sunday* Night in *Lombard-ſtreet*, and on *Monday* Morning he went Home, *&c.* He was ſuddenly afterwards choſen again at *Huntington*, and now all was well again, the Family very quiet, full of Joy and good Humour; and as an Inſtance thereof, I'll not omit a Frolick of Mr. *Barillon*'s (for he was ſtill one amongſt them more than before, if poſſible). It was the next Pope-burning Day, he made me promiſe to ſhew him the Burning of the Pope: I did, and that I would bring him off ſafe again. He came with a Gentleman, that ſpoke *Engliſh* pretty well, to the *Palſgrave-Head* Tavern at Five, where I ſtayed for him, and carried him within *Temple-Bar*, to a Friend's Houſe of mine; where he ſaw all the Shew, and the great Concourſe of People, which was very great at that Time, to his great Amaſement, as he pretended; and I believe it was ſo. I took Care for a Bottle or two of Sack for them, and left them about two Hours. At my Return he ſeemed frighted, being afraid that ſome Body that had been in the Room had known him, for then he might have

have been in ſome Danger; for had the Mob had the leaſt Intimation of him, they had torn him to Pieces: And he ſeemed to be ſenſible of it the next Day, but it ſerved then for a good Jeſt amongſt them.

HE wondred when I told him no manner of Miſchief was done, not ſo much as a Head broke; but in three or four Hours the Streets were all quiet as at other Times. It would not have been ſo in *Paris* he ſaid.

Mon-



A la Haye, ce 27 Decembre 1674.

Monſieur,

« CE m'a été bien de la joye, de voir « par la Lettre que vous avez pris la « peine de m'écrire par Monſieur vôtre fils, « que je ſuis dans vôtre ſouvenir, & que vous « voulliez m'aſſurer de vôtre amitié, qui eſt « une des choſes du monde que j'eſtime le « plus & tâcheray a la meriter, ſur quoy « J'ay prié Monſieur vôtre fils de vous In- « former plus particulierement, & d'une « Affaire qui me touche dans mon particu- « lier, je vous auray une tres grande Obliga- « tion, ſi vous me la pouvez obtenir, & « tâcheray de le reconnoiſtre en toutes les « Occaſions, ou il y ira de vôtre Service, « cependant je vous prie d'être aſſuré, que « quoy qu'il en arrive, je ſeray toûjours avec « la même Paſſion,

Monſieur,

Vôtre tres Affectionné Serviteur,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Hague, December 27. 1674.

My Lord,

IT was a mighty Satisfaction to me to find, by the Letter which you gave your ſelf the Trouble to ſend me by my Lord your Son, that I am ſo much in your Memory as to receive from you an Aſſurance of your Friendſhip; which, as it is one of thoſe Things whereon I ſet the higheſt Value, I ſhall endeavour to deſerve. I have deſired my Lord your Son, to give you a farther Account of my Senſe hereof, as alſo to acquaint you with an Affair which particularly concerns me: I ſhould be extreamly obliged to you if you can get it accompliſh'd for me; and ſhall endeavour to omit no Opportunity, where it may be for your Service, to acknowledge the Obligation. In the mean Time, I intreat you to reſt aſſured, that whatever Difference there may be in the Succeſs of this Affair, I ſhall be always with the ſame Paſſion,

My Lord,

Your moſt Affectionate Servant,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A Arnheim, ce 20 Fevrier 167.

Monſieur,

‘IL ſera aſſé facile de vous perſuader la ‘joye que J'ay eu, de recevoir la Lettre ‘que vous avez pris la peine de m'écrire ; ‘par laquelle vous me notifiez la grace que ‘ſa Majeſté ma fait, de vouloir me don- ‘ner des aſſignations pour le Payement de ‘ma dette ſur le reſte que Meſſieurs les ‘Eſtats doivent au Roy, en conformité du ‘traité de Paix, & comme je ſçay que c'eſt ‘a vous ſeul que J'ay l'obligation de m'avoir ‘procuré cette affaire, je vous en rend beau- ‘coup de grace, & vous en reſteray obligé ‘tout le tems de ma vie, je vous prie Mon- ‘ſieur d'avoir la bonté d'ajouter a cette fa- ‘veur de me faire avoir l'expedition des ‘ſuſdittes aſſignations le plus-toſt qu'il ſe ‘pourra, & de me Conſerver en toutes oc- ‘caſions vôtre amitié dont je fais une ſi ‘grand eſtime, & que je tâcheray de meriter ‘en toutes les Occaſions, ou il y ira de vous ‘têmoigner avec combien de Paſſion je ſuis,

Monſieur,

Vôtre tres Affectionné Serviteur,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

JE

Arnheim, February 20. 167⅞.

My Lord,

NOTHING will be eaſier, than to convince you, with how much Satisfaction and Pleaſure I received the Letter, which you gave your ſelf the Trouble to write; wherein you give me an Account of the Favour his Majeſty has ſhewn me, in aſſigning, for the Payment of my Debt, Part of the Money due from their Highneſſes the States to his Majeſty, purſuant to the Treaty of Peace. And as I know that I owe to your ſelf alone the Succeſs which this Affair has met with, I give you many Thanks, and ſhall own the Obligation as long as I live. I deſire your Lordſhip to be ſo kind, as to add this farther Favour to what I have already received, That theſe Aſſignments may meet with all the Diſpatch poſſible; and that I may have the Continuance of your Friendſhip, whereon I ſet ſo great a Value, and which I ſhall endeavour to deſerve, by taking all Occaſions, where it may be for your Service, of ſhewing with how much Paſſion I am,

My Lord,

Your moſt Affectionate Servant,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

I TAKE

‘ JE prend la liberté de vous envoyer ici ‘ jointe une Lettre pour le Roy, par la quelle ‘ je luy rend mes tres humbles remercimens de la grace qu'il m'a fait, que je vous ‘ prie d'avoir la bonté de luy donner quand ‘ vous le jugerez convenir.

A Lokeren, ce 9 Juin 1677.

Monsieur,

‘ AYANT creu neceſſaire en cette Conjoncture de tems, d'envoyer au Roy ‘ une perſonne ſur la quelle je me fie, ‘ Je luy envoye Mr. de *Bentinck*, mon Chambelan, & comme je l'ay expreſſement ‘ chargé de s'adreſſer a vous, Monſieur, & ‘ vous communiquer la Commiſſion, je vous ‘ prie d'avoir la bonté de l'aſſiſter par vôtre ‘ puiſſante Credit, & d'être aſſuré que perſonne au monde ne vous en ſera plus reconnoiſſant, & qui ſouhaitte plus d'avoir ‘ une étroitte amitie avec vous, que je tâcheray de meriter, en toutes les Occaſions, ‘ ou il y ira de vous faire voir par les effets ‘ avec combien de Paſſion je ſuis,

Monſieur,

Votre tres Humble, &

tres Affectionné Serviteur,

G. P. d'ORANGE.

I TAKE the Liberty to ſend you herewith, a Letter to his Majeſty; wherein I give him my moſt humble Thanks for the Favour he has done me. I deſire you will favour me by giving it him at what Time you ſhall judge moſt convenient.

Lokeren, June 9. 1677.

My Lord,

JUDGING it neceſſary, in the preſent Juncture of Time, to ſend to his Majeſty ſome Perſon in whom I can confide, I have ſent Mr. *de Bentinck*, my Chamberlain. As I have given him an expreſs Charge to addreſs himſelf to you, and to acquaint your Lordſhip with the Buſineſs he comes about; ſo I intreat the Favour of you to aſſiſt him by the mighty Intereſt you have, and to aſſure your ſelf, That no One in the World will be readier to own the Obligations you confer, than I am; or that deſires a more ſtrict Friendſhip with you than I do: Which I ſhall endeavour to deſerve on all Occaſions that ſhall offer, of ſhewing you effectually with how much Paſſion I am,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and
moſt Affectionate Servant,
W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

11 *June* 1677.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

I HAVE received ſo great Honours, both by your Highneſſes Letter by Mr. *Bentinck*, and another I had a little before from *Eckloe*, that I can never make Acknowledgments enough for them: But they have obliged me to make the beſt Returns I am able; which is, by devoting my Services in the ſtricteſt Manner to your Highneſs.

I HOPE your Highneſs will find by Mr. *Bentinck*, That his Reception here has been to your Satisfaction; and I confeſs, I have not in my Life thought any Thing more fortunate, than your Highneſſes ſending to the King at this Time, and in ſo obliging a Manner as Mr. *Bentinck* hath performed.

I HOPE it may have been an happy Beginning, to a more happy End; which is, The procuring ſo ſtrict a Friendſhip betwixt the King and your Highneſs, as may not only be of the greateſt Contentment to your ſelves, but the greateſt Security in the World againſt both your Enemies: It being apparent (beſides the Nearneſs of Re-

lation

lation in Blood) that the ſafeſt and moſt prudent Courſe which can be taken betwixt the King and your Highneſs, is to make your Friendſhips as inſeparable, as your Intereſts are, if rightly conſidered.

I BEG your Highneſs to forgive this high Preſumption, which proceeds from ſo true a Zeal to your Service; and that you will believe, there is no Man will do more to his Power, in the Promoting of it with all the Duty and Reſpect which becomes,

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

Your Highneſſes moſt truly

Obedient Servant,

DANBY.

De Lokeren, ce 25 Juin 1677.

Monſieur

‘ J'AY tant de reconnoiſſance des graces
‘ que vous m'avez faites, & des Civili-
‘ tez que j'ay receu chez vous, Monſieur,
‘ que je ne puis ſuffiſamment vous en re-
‘ mercier, vous aſſurant que le reſſentiment
‘ m'en demeurera toujours. La Lettre de
‘ Son Alteſſe ci jointe vous fera voir ſi je
‘ vous ay fait Juſtice, en luy faiſant connoi-
‘ ſtre les Services que vous luy avez rendû ;
‘ Et la ſincerité, & la Franchize dont vous
‘ avez uzé envers moy, & de la quelle vous
‘ m'avez promis Monſieur que vous voulez
‘ être toujours de ſes amis, & favorizer ſes
‘ Intereſts ; je luy ay fait connoître que ce
‘ qui s'étoit fait ſelon les Ordres qu'il m'a-
‘ voit donné, étoit par vôtre avis & di-
‘ rection ; je m'aſſure que vous continüerez
‘ a travailler comme vous avez fait utille-
‘ ment a cette affaire, & puis que je n'ay
‘ pû attendre plus long-tems en *Angleterre*,
‘ que vous preſſerez ainſi les choſes que le
‘ Roy envoye au pluſtoſt quelqu'un ici, pour
‘ inſtruire Monſieur le Prince de ſes Sen-
‘ timents, afin que la bonne Intelligence
‘ que vous avez jugé vous même qui com-
‘ mençoit a s'établir, & qui devoit être utille
‘ a ſa Majeſte, & a Monſieur le Prince, ne

‘ demeure

Lokeren, June 25. 1677.

My Lord,

I Lie under so many Obligations for the Favours you have bestowed, and for the Civilities I have received from your Lordship, that I can never be thankful enough for them: But must only assure your Lordship, That I shall at no time of my Life lose the Remembrance of them. His Highness Letter, which I send herewith, will let you see, whether I have done you Justice, in letting him know how serviceable you have been to him, and with what a sincere and hearty Friendship you both received me, and gave me your Promise of always continuing his Friend, and promoting his Interest. I acquainted him, That all the Steps I had made, pursuant to the Orders he had given me, were by your Advice and Direction: I make no question but that you will continue to use the same Care that you have so usefully already taken in this Affair. And since I could not make any longer Stay in *England*, that you will so manage Matters, that the King may send some Body hither as soon as can be, to inform his Highness the Prince, of his Majesties Sentiments; that so the good Understanding, which you your self judge to be so well began between

demeure point dans cet Etat ; mais s'augmente de jour a aûtre, & comme le Succes de mon Voyage depend de vous Monſieur, par le Credit que vous avez aupres du Roy ; connoiſſant la ſincerité de vos ſentiments, & l'inclination que vous m'avez temoigné pour les Intereſts de Monſieur le Prince, je ne doute pas que dans peu ſon Alteſſe n'en voye les Effets qu'il s'en promet infalliblement. Sur tout Monſieur ayez ſoing que celuy que ſa Majeſté envoyera, ſoit un homme en qui vous prenez entiere confiance, & s'il eſt poſſible qu'il ne ſoit pas entierement inconnu, a Monſieur le Prince. Je vous ſuplie Monſieur de croire que perſonne au monde n'eſt plus effectivement que je ſuis,

Monſieur,

Votre très humble, &

très Obeiſſant Serviteur,

W. BENTYNCK.

Monſieur,

his Majeſty and his Highneſs, and which tends ſo much to both their Advantages, may no longer remain in its Beginning, but every Day increaſe. And ſince the Succeſs of my Voyage is owing to your Lordſhip, and to the Credit which you have with his Majeſty, I am too well acquainted with the Sincerity of your Intentions, and the Inclination you have aſſured me you have for Promoting his Highneſſes Service, to doubt, but that in a very ſhort Time his Highneſs will ſee thoſe Effects, of which he has given himſelf infallible Aſſurances. Your Lordſhip will be pleaſed to take particular Care, That the Perſon whom his Majeſty ſends, may be one in whom your Lordſhip can put intire Confidence; and if it be poſſible, one that is not wholly a Stranger to his Highneſs. I beg of your Lordſhip to believe, That no one in the World is with more Reality than I am,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and

moſt Obedient Servant,

W. BENTINCK.

A Lokeren, ce 25 Juin 1677.

Monsieur,

'IL n'est pas possible, d'avoir plus de joye
'que je n'ay, d'avoir un peu de part en
'vôtre amitié, la Franchise avec la quelle
'vous en avez usé avec Mr. *Bentinck*, & 'les Assurances que vous m'en donnez, 'par la Lettre obligeante qu'il vous a plu 'm'écrire, m'en rendent si fortement per'suadé, que je ne puis vous en témoigner 'assé ma reconnoissance, n'y des honneurs 'que vous luy avez fait, j'espere que vous 'voudrez bien avoir la bonté, de me conti'nuer toujours vôtre amitié, & que vous 'voudrez faire souvenir sa Majesté, de la 'promesse qu'il a fait a Mr. *Bentinck* de m'en'voyer quelqu'un de confiance, pour m'in'former de ses Sentiments, apres quoy j'at'tendray avec un Impatience extreme, & 'aussi apres les Occasions de vous pouvoir 'faire voir par les effets la Passion avec la 'quelle je seray toutte ma vie,

Monsieur,

Vôtre tres Humble, &

tres Affectionné Serviteur,

G. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Lokeren, June 25. 1677.

My Lord,

IT is not poſſible to have more Satisfaction than I find, in having a ſmall Share in your Friendſhip. The Openneſs and Freedom by which you ſhewed it to Mr. *Bentinck*, and the Aſſurances I received of it in the obliging Letter you was pleaſed to ſend me, have ſo thoroughly convinced me of it, that I am at a Loſs how to find Means ſufficiently to acknowledge my Senſe of it, or of the Honour you did him. I hope you will oblige me with the perpetual Continuance of your Friendſhip; and that you will put his Majeſty in Mind of the Promiſe which he gave Mr. *Bentinck*, to ſend a Perſon hither in whom his Majeſty can confide, to acquaint me with his Majeſties Sentiments. This is what I ſhall, with great Impatience, wait for; as I ſhall for all poſſible Opportunities of letting you ſee, in the moſt effectual Manner, the Paſſion which I ſhall all my Life-time remain,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and

moſt Affectionate Servant,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

Du Quartier de Calkem, ce 16 Juillet 1677.

Monſieur

JE vous aſſure qui c'eſt avec beaucoup de joye que jay reçu celle que vous m'ayez fait l'Honneur de m'ecrire, me marquant que le Roy a reſolû d'envoyer Mr. *Temple* a ſon Alteſſe: vous pouvez être aſſuré, Monſieur, qu'il ne pouvoit avoir choiſi Perſonne qui luy fût plus agreable, vû la maniere dont ſon Alteſſe le conſidere, & la connoiſſance qu'il a des Affaires étrangeres; je vous avoüe, que nous ſerons tous Conſollez de ce petit retardement, quand nous verrons venir Monſieur *Temple*. Monſieur le Prince a été tres ayze de voir dans la vôtre, qui l'Explication des paroles, que ſa Majeſté m'avoit dittes ſur le ſujet de ſon voyage en Angleterre, eſt conforme a ce que vous me dites, Monſieur, a mon depart. Desque la campagne ſera finie il yra rendre ſes reſpects au Roy, en obſervant le tems que le Parlement ne ſera point aſſemblé. Nous avons marché aujourdhuy & avons paſſé la Riviere pres de *Dendermonde* avec

l'Armée,

From his Highneſſes Quarters at Calken,
July 16. 1677.

My Lord,

I Beg Leave to aſſure you, That it was with extream Pleaſure that I receiv'd the Letter you did me the Honour to write; wherein you ſay, That his Majeſty has reſolv'd to ſend Sir *William Temple* to his Highneſs. You may be aſſur'd, my Lord, that his Majeſty could not have pitch'd upon any Perſon that would give him greater Satisfaction here; not only becauſe of the good Opinion his Highneſs has of him, but alſo in Reſpect of his own Perſonal Knowledge in foreign Affairs. We ſhall receive ſo much Satisfaction in ſeeing Sir *William* here, that it will make a large Amends for his ſmall Delay in coming. His Highneſs the Prince was very glad to find, by your Letter, that his Majeſty has explain'd what he ſaid to me concerning his Highneſs's Voyage to *England*, agreeably to what your Lordſhip inform'd me at my Departure. When this Campaign is over, his Highneſs will come and pay his Reſpects to his Majeſty, and chooſe a Time to do it when the Parliament is not ſitting. We march'd to Day, and paſs'd the River

near

' l'Armée, pour nous aprocher des Alliez,
' vous ne me devez point de complimens,
' Monsieur, de ce que vous dites avoir vû
' par la Lettre de Son Altesse, que je vous
' ay rendû Justice en luy disant la maniere
' ouverte & obligeante dont vous en avez
' uzé a Son Egard, & les Civilitez que
' vous m'avez fait, en cette particulier qui
' m'obligeront d'être toute ma vie avec
' beaucoup de sincerité,

Monsieur,

Vôtre tres Humble, &

tres Obeissant Serviteur

WM BENTINCK.

' Vous pardonnerez bien, Monsieur, que
' je mette cette Lettre pour Monsieur *Temple*,
' dans vôtre couvert. Son Altesse vous
' prie de la bien donner quand il viendra
' en *Angleterre*.

Du

near *Dendermonde* with the Army, to be nearer the Allies. The Complements that you are pleas'd to beſtow upon me, are by no Means my Due; for that, as your Lordſhip ſays, you perceive, by his Highneſs's Letter, I have done you the Juſtice to tell him in how obliging and free a Manner you eſpouſed his Intereſt, and with what particular Civilities I was entertain'd: Which will oblige me, as long as I live, to be with the utmoſt Sincerity,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and

moſt Obedient Servant,

W. BENTINCK.

I hope for your Lordſhips Pardon, for putting a Letter for Sir *William Temple* under your Cover. His Highneſs deſires you to give it him when he arrives in *England*.

From

Du Camp de Sombref, ce 16 d'Aouſt 1677.

Monſieur,

J'AY été bien ſurpris de voir, par la Lettre que Monſieur *Temple* a écrit à ſon Alteſſe qu'il ne croit pas venir ici, le retardement qui étoit arrivé au deſſein que le Roy a eu d'envoyer quelqu'un à ſon Alteſſe nous avoit fait craindre du changement aux Affaires ; mais je croy que nous n'avons plus de ſujet de l'apprehender, voyant le voyage de Monſieur *Temple* acroché apres que ſa Majeſté l'a fait venir expres de *Nimuegue* pour cet effet & a écrit à ſon Alteſſe qu'il le lui envoyeroit, que ſon Alteſſe a témoigné à vôtre cour la ſatisfaction qu'il avoit de ce chois, & que Meſſieurs les Etats avoient ordonné à Monſieur van *Beeringen* de declarer la même choſe de leur part. Nos Affaires ici prennent un biais à nous faire craindre que nous n'aurons pas grand Avantage cette campagne, & cela a cauſe des mechantes meſures que les Eſpagnols nous font prendre, ils nous ont aſſuré que les François ne pourroient mettre une ſi forte Armée en campagne quils ne fuſſent en état avec les troupes des autres Alliés de leur faire tête & de couvrir nôtre

Siege,

From the Camp at Sombref, *Auguſt* 16. 1677.

My Lord,

IT was no ſmall Surpriſe to find by the Letter which Sir *William Temple* wrote his Highneſs, that it is Sir *William*'s Opinion that he ſhall not be ſent hither at all. We were ready to fear that Affairs had taken a new Turn, when we found his Majeſty's Deſign meet with ſo much Delay after he had declar'd his Intention to ſend ſome Perſon over to his Highneſs: But theſe Fears are now abated by the Aſſurance we have of Sir *William*'s Voyage, which has hitherto lain in Suſpence; tho' his Majeſty has not only ſent him expreſs Orders to come from *Nimuegen* on that very Account, but has wrote to the Prince that he will ſend Sir *William* to him: And his Highneſs has acquainted the Court, how much he is ſatisfied in the Choice they have made of a Perſon; which very Thing their Highneſſes the States have likewiſe order'd Monſieur *Van Beuningen* to declare on their Part. Our Affairs here have had ſuch a Turn, as makes us fear this Campaign will not end much to our Advantage, which is chiefly to be imputed to the bad Meaſures which the *Spaniards* force us to take. They gave us Aſſurance, That let the *French* bring as good an Army as they could into the Field, they, with the Troops of the Allies, ſhould be in a Condition not only to make Head

‘ Siege, & cependant nous les avons vû
‘ venir a nous avec une Armeé auſſi forte
‘ que les nôtres enſemble, avant que nos
‘ Lignes fuſſent a moitié achevées & nous
‘ ont obligé de quitter la Place que nous
‘ allions aſſieger, ſans qu'il nous ait été
‘ poſſible de les combattre, ſelon le ſentiment
‘ de tous nos Generaux, ſans le plus grand
‘ deſavantage du monde, étant obligé de
‘ défiler devant nos ennemis au travers
‘ d'un grand bois qui nous ſeparoit, & ou
‘ ils êtoient en bataille de l'autre côté. Vous
‘ pouvez facilement juger, Monſieur, les
‘ choſes demeurantes cette ſaiſon dans l'état
‘ ou elles ſont, & que nos ennemis ce puiſ-
‘ ſent ſervir du printems a venir, comme
‘ ils ont fait ces anneés precedentes s'il ſera
‘ tems alors de ſonger a la ſureté des pays
‘ bas puis que les François en ſeront les
‘ Maiſtres. La confiance que j'ay en vos
‘ bonnes intentions pour des intereſts ſi ju-
‘ ſtes me font eſperer que vous travaillerez
‘ utillement en cette affaire, ôtant les diffi-
‘ cultez qui pouvoient empécher la venüe
‘ de Monſieur *Temple*. Je vous ſupplie de me
‘ faire la Grace de m'en dire vos ſentiments
‘ & de me croire toûjours,

Monſieur,

Vôtre très Humble, &
très Obeiſſant Serviteur,

W. BENTINCK.

againſt the *French*, but likewiſe to cover our Siege; and yet we found that they took the Field with an Army as ſtrong as all ours together before our Lines were half finiſh'd, which oblig'd us to raiſe the Siege without any Poſſibility of bringing them to an Engagement: Which, in the Opinion of all our Generals, could not be effected but with the greateſt Hazard and Diſadvantage in the World, we being oblig'd to march in Sight of the Enemy thro' a large Wood, which lay between us, by Defilés, againſt their Army, which was drawn up on the other Side. Your Lordſhip will eaſily judge, ſince Affairs are at preſent in this Condition, if the Enemy make the ſame Advantage of the next Spring as they have in the foregoing Years, whether it will not then be too late to think of providing for the Safety of the Low Countries when the *French* are Maſters of them? The full Aſſurance I have of your good Intentions to promote ſo good a Cauſe, makes me hope that you will not ſpare your uſeful Endeavours on this Occaſion, in removing thoſe Obſtacles which may hinder the coming of Sir *William Temple*. I beg you to favour me ſo far, as to let me know your Thoughts on this Subject, and that you will believe me to be always,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and
moſt Obedient Servant

 W. BENTINCK.

Au Camp de St. Va, ce 23 d'Aouſt 1677.

Monſieur,

« JE ne puis vous celer que j'ay été un peu
« ſurpris d'apprendre par la lettre qu'il
« vous a plû de m'ecrire par Mr. le Comte
« de *Plymouth*, que ſa Majeſté ne m'envoy-
« eroit pas Mr. le Chevalier *Temple*, ainſy
« qu'il m'avoit fait eſperer, & cela parce
« qu'il croit que ſes ſentiments ne ſeront
« point conformes au miens; je vous puis aſ-
« ſurer que je n'en auray Jamais d'autre qu'a
« luy complaire en tout ce qui ſera dans
« mon pouvoir, & ſi le Roy a encore les
« mêmes que vous avez temoigné a Mr.
« *Bentinck* que ſa Majeſté avoit lors qu'il
« étoit en *Angleterre*, je croy que les Affaires
« pourroient s'ajuſter, au moins j'y feray mon
« poſſible ainſi j'eſpere que par vôtre en-
« tremiſe, & puiſſant credit une affaire de
« cette importance pourroit avoir une bonne
« & heureuſe Iſsüe, a quoy je vous prie de
« travailler, & d'être perſuadé de la forte
« paſſion avec la quelle je ſeray toûjours.

Monſieur,

Votre tres Humble, & tres
Affectionné Serviteur,
G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

From the Camp at St. Va, Auguſt 23. 1677.

My Lord,

I Muſt confeſs, it was a ſort of Surpriſe to me, to find by the Letter you was pleas'd to write to me by the Earl of *Plymouth*, that his Majeſty did not deſign to ſend Sir *William Temple* to me, as he had given me Hopes he would: And that becauſe his Majeſty believ'd that his own Sentiments and mine would be very different, I do aſſure you, that I have nothing more in my Thoughts, than to comply with the King in every Thing that lies in my Power. And if his Majeſty ſtill retains the ſame Sentiments which you aſſured Mr, *Bentinck* when he was in *England*, that he then had, I do not queſtion but all Matters may be eaſily adjuſted; at leaſt, I ſhall do all that is poſſible on my Part towards it, as I hope, by your Aſſiſtance, and the mighty Intereſt you have, an Affair of this Importance may be brought to a good and happy Iſſue. I intreat you to take this Trouble upon you, and to be fully aſſur'd of the mighty Paſſion with which I ſhall be always,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and
moſt Affectionate Servant,
W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

Au Camp de Longuie, ce 18 *de Sept.* 1677.

Monſieur,

« PUIS que ſa Majeſté m'a fait la grace de
« me permettre de venir luy faire la re-
« verence en *Angleterre*, je vay me preparer
« pour partir en tres peu de tems, & ainſy
« je ne vous entretiendray pas ſur la com-
« miſſion de Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Hyde*, qui
« vous informera de ce que je luy ay dit:
« Mais je le reſerveray à ce que j'auray
« l'honneur de vous voir, & vous aſſurer
« moy même de la veritable paſſion avec
« la quelle je ſuis,

Monſieur,

Vôtre tres Humble, &

tres Affectionné Serviteur,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

From the Camp at Longuie, Sept. 18. 1677.

My Lord,

SINCE his Majeſty has been ſo favourable as to give me his Permiſſion to come and pay my Reſpects to him in *England*, I am now preparing with what Speed I can for my Voyage. I ſhall not therefore entertain you with any Thing relating to the Affairs that my Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde* comes about, who will inform you of what I ſaid thereon: I ſhall reſerve what I have farther to ſay, till I have the Honour of ſeeing you, and aſſuring you of the real Paſſion with which I am,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and

moſt Affectionate Servant,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A Babin, $\frac{23 \text{ Nov.}}{5 \text{ Dec.}}$ 1677.

‘ VOUS aurez ſans doutte appris par la
‘ Lettre que j'ay écrit hier au ſoir au
‘ Roy tous les Accidents que nous avons eu ;
‘ J'ay reçu a ce matin les Ordres pour retour-
‘ ner a *Londres* : Mais les ayant reçûe ici je
‘ ne les ay pû executer n'ayant point de voi-
‘ ture propre pour Tranſporter des Femmes,
‘ ainſy je continue mon chemin vers *Canter-*
‘ *bury*, ou j'attendray les Ordres leſquelles
‘ j'eſpere ne m'obligeront pas de retourner
‘ avec les Femmes a *Londres*, qui ſeroit une
‘ choſe tres embaraſſante pour moy : je ſe-
‘ ray aize d'y faire un tour en Poſte, de quoy
‘ je vous prie de parler au Roy, & de tâcher
‘ a luy perſuader qu'il ne nous faſſe pas re-
‘ venir tous, ayant une repugnance Extreme
‘ de m'embarquer de nouveau dans la Ri-
‘ viere, le pouvant faire auſſy commodement
‘ que je puis a *Marguet*, je vous prie d'avoir
‘ cette bonté, & d'être aſſuré que J'auray
‘ bien de la Joye a vous revoir & vous re-
‘ mercier de nouveau de toutes vos bontés
‘ continuelles a moy ; je vous en conjure &
‘ croyez moy toûjours abſolument a vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Je vous prie de m'écrire ſans Cerémonie
comme je faits a preſent.

Babin, $\frac{\text{Nov. 22.}}{\text{Dec. 3.}}$ 1677.

YOU have been informed, without doubt, by the Letter I wrote laſt Night to the King, of all the Accidents which have befallen us. This Morning brought me Orders to return to *London*; but as they come to me in this Place, where no Convenience could be had to bring up the Women, it was impoſſible for me to comply with them. I ſhall therefore proceed in my Journey to *Canterbury*, where I will ſtay for farther Orders; which I hope will not oblige me to bring the Women back with me to *London*, which I can never do without the utmoſt Trouble. I ſhould much rather chooſe to come Poſt, which I intreat you to mention to the King, and endeavour to prevail with him not to make us all come back again; for I ſhould be mighty loth to go on Board again, and come up by Water, when I can ſo much eaſier return from *Margate* by Land. I beg of you to do me this Service; and to aſſure your ſelf, that it will be a great Satisfaction to me to ſee you again, and to renew my Thanks to you for the continual Favours you have ſhewn me. I beſeech you to believe me for ever entirely

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

I deſire you would uſe as little Ceremony when you write to me, as I do now to you.

Au bord du Montagu *a la Rade de* Marguet, *ce* 26 Novembre 1677. *a* 4 *Heures.*

LES Ancres étant dêja preſque levées vous me pardonnerez bien J'eſpere que je me refere au porteur, & que je vous prie ſeulement de me continuer toûjours vôtre amitié ; vôtre Lettre m'a fort réjouy, vous en comprendrez facilement la Raiſon ; j'eſpere d'en apprendre bien toſt plus de particularitez. Croyez moy Juſques au dernier ſoupir entierement,

A vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

From on Board the Mountague *in* Margate-*Road*, November 26. 1677. *Four of the Clock.*

THE Anchors are now weighing: I hope therefore you will pardon me that I refer you to the Bearer; and that at preſent I only beg, that I may always have the Continuance of your Friendſhip. Your Letter gave me a mighty Satisfaction, the Reaſon of which you will eaſily comprehend. I hope it will not be long before I receive more particular Information. Believe me to be to my laſt Breath entirely

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A Marguet, ce $\frac{28\ Nov.}{8\ Dec.}$ *à 10 Heures du Matin,* 1677.

'ENFIN voicy la troiſieme fois que nous allons nous embarquer, eſperant 'que ce ſera la derniere, c'eſt pourquoy j'ay 'voulû vous écrire, afin qu'en partant d'*Angleterre*, je vous puiſſe remercier pour la 'derniere fois de toutes vos bontées, & 'vous prier de me les continuer toûjours: 'J'attendray avec une grande Impatience 'de ſavoir la réponſe que le Comte de *Feverſham* apportera & eſpere ou qu'elle ſera 'bonne, ou que l'on prendra une bonne 'Reſolution, a quoi je vous conjure de te'nir la main & me croire ſans reſerve,

Adieu,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Margate, $\frac{28\ November}{8\ December}$ 1677. *Ten of the Clock in the Morning.*

THIS is now the third Time, and I hope will be the laſt, that we have gone on Board. I was deſirous to write to you juſt upon my Departure from *England*, that the laſt Thing I do before I go, may be Thanking you for all the good Offices you have done me, and intreating that I may always have the Continuance of them. I ſhall be very impatient 'till I hear what Anſwer my Lord *Feverſham* will bring; I hope that it will be Satisfactory, or at leaſt occaſion ſome good Reſolutions: To produce which, I earneſtly entreat your Concurrence, and that you will believe me to be without Reſerve,

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A Honſlaerdyck, ce 10 *Dec.* 1677.

NONOBSTANT que je n'ay mis pied a terre que hier, & qu'ainſi je ne puis avoir grand ſujet pour vous écrire, je ne m'en ay pû empêcher, pour vous renouveller les aſſurances de mes tres humbles Services, & la veritable reconnoiſſance que j'ay de toutes les obligations que je vous ay. A mon arrivée ici j'ay reçû l'agreeable Nouvelle du Siege de St. *Giſlain*, & que toutes nos troupes y marchoient : Si j'avois crû y arriver a tems, je ſeray reparty tout auſſy tôt, pour les joindre. J'attend la poſte de *Flandre* qui devoit déja être arrivée pour ſavoir ce que je feray : Si les ennemis prennent la ville, il faudra qu'ils la rendent comme les autres, ſans quoy il ny a point de paix a faire. Pour moy je me fie entierement à vous & ſuis aſſuré que vous negligeres rien pour la ſureté des deux Nations autant qu'il ſera en vôtre pouvoir, & je ne puis être avec plus de paſſion a vous, que je ne ſuis,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Honſlaerdyck, Dec. 10. 1677.

ALTHO' I landed but Yeſterday, and ſhall therefore can have no great Buſineſs to write about; yet I could not forbear writing, to repeat to you the Offer of my moſt humble Service, and to aſſure you of the true Senſe I have of all the Obligations you have laid upon me. On my Arrival here, I receiv'd the agreeable News of the Siege of St. *Giſlain*, and that all our Troops were marching thither: If I thought it poſſible to get thither ſoon enough, I would ſet forward immediately to join them. I wait for the Poſt from *Flanders*, which muſt be by this Time come in, to know what I am to do. If the Enemy do take this Place, they muſt ſurrender it as well as the other Towns they have taken, otherwiſe no Peace can be made. As for me, I entirely rely upon you, and reſt ſatisfied, that you will neglect nothing that lies in your Power to do for the Security of both the Nations, and am, with all the Paſſion, that is poſſible for me to be,

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

London, *December* 18. 1677.

I HAVE a Multitude of Acknowledgements to make to your Highneſs, for the ſeveral Letters, and Honours in them, which your Highneſs has been pleaſed to beſtow upon me ſince your leaving this Place; And as I have receiv'd great ſatisfaction from them all; ſo it has not been the leaſt, that by your laſt from *Honſlaerdick* of *November* 30. *December* 10. I have heard the good News of both your Highneſſes ſafe Arrival in *Holland*. We had the News of St. *Ghiſlain* being beſieged before your Letter came, and I hope with no ill Effect; for it did ſo alarm us here, (I mean the King and Duke themſelves, as well as others) that, together with the Account we have receiv'd from *France* by my Lord *Feverſham*, it has made us come up to more brisk Councils than I dare be confident your Highneſs would expect from us; and of which you would have an Account by the ſending of Sir *William Temple*, but that we ſtay him in Expectation of having more to ſend him with, when we have heard once more from *France* by Mr.

Mr. *Montagu*, who is to depart hence on *Thurſday* Morning, with Orders to preſs for a ſpeedy Reſolution of their Mind. The Sum of the Anſwer to my Lord *Feverſham* (who has acquitted himſelf very well there) has been, That the King of *France* did not expect the King of *England* would have thought ſuch Propoſitions reaſonable; and that he ſhould think it as reaſonable, to deſire of him that he ſhould cut off his Legs, and then bid him walk. That to ſhew his Intentions were not to take all *Flanders*, he would be willing to conſent to a Truce for all the *Spaniſh* and *Holland* Towns betwixt the *Meuſe* and the Sea, as was in the Year 1668, and that Truce to be for a Year, or what farther convenient Time the King ſhould think fit. What Anſwer his Majeſty has return'd to this, Mr. *Hyde* is directed to communicate to your Highneſs at large, ſo that I will not trouble you with the Repetition of it: But you may be fully aſſured, his Majeſty will not now go leſs than the Seven Towns mentioned to your Highneſs, and will as much expect as your ſelf, That if *St. Ghiſlain*, or any other Place, ſhall be taken ſince the ſending of my Lord *Feverſham* into *France*, they be reſtored over and above the Towns already demanded. And your Highneſs may judge how much our

Temper is alleged, when the principal End of this Expreſs is to tell you, That the King will join with *Holland* to oblige *France* to accept the Propoſals ſent by my Lord *Feverſham*, in caſe *Holland* will join with him to oblige *Spain* to the ſame if they ſhall refuſe it: And the King will rely upon your Highneſſes ſingle Engagement for this, without ſaying any Thing to the States of it. Your Highneſs will eaſily remember how far the King was from coming up to this, when you made ſeveral Eſſays to have gain'd it from him; ſo that your Highneſs will give me Leave to ſay, the Fault will now lie on your Side of the Water, if you have not either the Peace upon the Terms propoſed, or as engaged as deep in the War as your ſelves: And if I may offer an Advice, I think it were not amiſs to conſider on your Parts, (as we ſhall be thinking on ours) in what Manner the carrying on the War might be beſt concerted betwixt *England* and *Holland* in caſe of a Rupture with *France*, becauſe the Project of it will do no Harm, tho' it ſhould never be executed. I believe your Highneſs has as little expected the ſhort Adjournment of the Parliament, which proceeds from the ſame Cauſe. In ſhort, I have ſo great Confidence in our Steadineſs to theſe Reſolutions, that I can fear nothing but a *Spaniſh* Obſtinacy to

make

make us recoil, which I hope your Highneſs will take Care to prevent; and I am commanded by his Majeſty privately to tell your Highneſs, that he wiſhes you could haſten the Recall of the Marquis *de Bourgomaine*, by ſpeeding the Marquis *de Fuentes* hither whom we have expected a good while, and who I hope there will be Care taken to inſtruct, ſo as to tranſact in a more ſatisfactory Manner with his Majeſty than this has done, and which will certainly alſo be more Uſeful to the Intereſt of *Spain*. I am,

Your Highneſſes moſt Obedient,

and Devoted Servant,

DANBY.

A la Haye, ce 14 Dec. 1677.

'JE vous ay mandé par ma derniere que St. *Giſlain* étoit aſſiegé, je ſuis marri d'être obligé a vous dire a preſent que j'ay reçu la Nouvelle de ſa priſe, elle a Capitulé en même tems que nôtre Armée arrivoit pour la ſecourir, je n'en ſais pas encore d'autres particularitez, ny la Raiſon de cette Capitulation bigarée, vous pouvez croire comme cette Nouvelle fatalité me touche, pas pour la perte de la Place que n'eſt pas d'une ſi grande importance: Mais de la maniere qu'il faut toûjours qui la fortune ſoit ſi opiniâtre contre nous, & que les ennemis par deſſus tous leurs autres avantages ayent encore celuy la. Si l'on ne prend bien garde le tems s'ecoullera & l'on ne ſaura a quoy s'entenir, pour moy je me fie entierement a vous & ſuis aſſuré que vous negligeres rien pour la ſeureté des deux Nations autant qu'il ſera en vôtre pouvoir.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

'UN bien nous eſt pourtant arrivé en perdant St. *Giſlain*, que nous avons encore mis quatre Regiments dans *Mons*.

J'Avoüe

Hague, December 14. 1677.

I WROTE to you in my laſt, that St. *Giſlain* was beſieged; and it is a great Trouble to me that I am forc'd to tell you by this, that it is taken: It capitulated at the ſame Time that our Army arriv'd for its Relief. I cannot as yet give you the Particulars, nor the Reaſon of this extravagant Capitulation. You will eaſily believe how much I am concern'd at this new Fatality, not ſo much for the Loſs of the Place, as for the perverſe Manner in which Fortune perpetually thwarts our Deſigns; and that our Enemy, beſides all other Advantages, never wants that of good Luck. If ſpeedy Care be not taken, we ſhall ſlip our Time, and then it will be difficult to know upon what Meaſures to fix. As for my ſelf, I entirely rely upon you, and reſt fully ſatisfied, that you will neglect nothing that lies in your Power to do for the Safety of both Nations.

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

WE have however this good News come, That tho' we loſt St. *Giſlain*, yet we found Means to throw four Regiments into *Mons*.

A la Haye, ce 21 Decembre 1677.

'J'Avoüe que vôtre Lettre du $\frac{11}{21}$ du courant ne m'a pas moins ſurpris que réjoui, & comme aſſurément vous avez eu une grande part a faire prendre ces bonnes Reſolutions, je croy étre obligé de vous remercier pour l'interêt que j'y ay. Vous apprendrés par la réponſe que j'ay donnée a Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Hyde* qu'elle eſt telle que le Roy la demande & je vous puis aſſurer que je ne ſuis jamais engagé dans une affaire avec plus de joye, & dont je ſuis aſſuré que je ne ſeray deſavoüé de perſonne, j'y ay adjoûté ſeullement une penſée, que j'eſpere que le Roy ne trouvera pas mauvais que je luy ay fait repreſenter, puis que je n'ay point d'autre viüe que ſon propre interêt, & que je ne pretend pas que cela aye rien de commun avec la réponſe que j'ay donnée ſur la queſtion qu'il m'a fait demander. Ce que me reſte a preſent a ſouhaiter eſt que l'on ne ſe laiſſe pas amuſer, & que ſi le Roy de *France* ne donne une promte & bonne réponſe a Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Montaigu*, que l'on vueille executer promtement les Reſolutions que l'on a priſe puis

que

Hague, December 21. 1677.

I MUST own the Surpriſe, that your Letter of the 13 Inſtant gave me, was equal to the Pleaſure I had from it; and as I am ſatisfied, you had a great Share in bringing about thoſe good Reſolutions which are taken, I thought my Intereſt ſo far concern'd in them, as to oblige me to return you my Thanks. You will find, by my Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde's* Letter, that the Anſwer I have given him, is ſuch as the King deſir'd: And I can aſſure you, that I never was engag'd in any Thing more to my ſatisfaction, and in which my Conduct I am ſure can't but be free from Cenſure. I have taken the Liberty to add thereto only one Thought, which I have laid before his Majeſty; I hope he will not take it amiſs, ſince I had no other Aim therein, but only to promote his Service; and do not pretend, that it has any Conformity to that Anſwer which I gave to the Queſtion which his Majeſty order'd to be put to me. All that remains is, That I wiſh that we do not ſuffer our ſelves to be impos'd upon by Amuſements; ſo that if the King of *France* does not give a ſpeedy and a direct Anſwer to my Lord Ambaſſador *Mountagu*, the Reſolutions that are taken may

‘ que la ſaiſon étant déja ſi fort avancée,
‘ & les Affaires dans un ſi méchant état
‘ aux Pays Bas, il n'y a point de tems a
‘ perdre, car ſi l'on ne prend bien garde,
‘ l'on ne ſera plus en état de faire la paix,
‘ n'y une bonne Guerre, c'eſt ce que je
‘ vous prie de bien repreſenter ou il con-
‘ vient, cependant je ne laiſſeray pas de
‘ ſonger comme l'on pourra le mieux Con-
‘ certer les operations de Guerre pour être
‘ en tout cas preſt de les executer, & j'at-
‘ tendray avec impatience extreme la venüe
‘ de Mr. *Temple* afin que l'on puiſſe une
‘ fois ſavoir a quoy l'on à ſetenir, & en
‘ ſuitte regler toutes choſes, ſelon les or-
‘ dres du Roy. Je feray mon poſſible que
‘ le Marquis de *Bourgomaine* ſoit promtement
‘ rapellé & le Marquis de *Fuentes* envoyé en
‘ ſa place. En cela & en tout autre choſe
‘ je ſeray ravy de faire quelques choſes qui
‘ puiſſe plaire au Roy, & luy témoigner le
‘ veritable zelle que j'ay pour ſon ſervice &
‘ combien paſſionément

Je ſuis a vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

be immediately put in Execution, ſince the Seaſon is ſo far advanc'd, and the Affairs in the Low Countries are in ſo bad a Condition, that they will not admit of any Loſs of Time. For if ſpeedy Care be not taken, it will not be in our Power either to make a Peace, or carry on the War with Succeſs; which I intreat you to repreſent to his Majeſty at a convenient Time. In the mean Time, I will ſet my ſelf to conſider of the moſt proper Methods of concerting the Operations of the War in ſuch manner, as to be able to put them in Execution, let what will happen. It is with great Impatience that I expect the Arrival of Sir *William Temple*, that ſo we may at laſt know on what we may ſecurely fix, and thereby be able to regulate every Thing in Conformity to his Majeſty's Orders. I will do all that I can to get the Marquis *de Bourgomaine* immediately recall'd, and the Marquis *de Fuentes* ſent in his Room. It will be an infinite Pleaſure to me, if in this or any Thing elſe I can act to his Majeſty's Satisfaction, and thereby give any Proof of the true Zeal I have for his Service, and with how much Paſſion

I am yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

London, Dec. $\frac{11}{21}$. 1677.

THE King has ſent Mr. *Thynne* to your Highneſs on a Meſſage, for which he had deſigned Sir *William Temple*; but that with infinite Earneſtneſs he beſought his Majeſty to excuſe him, at a Time when ſome Inconveniencies in his private Fortune would have been ſo great, that the King would not put ſuch a Hardſhip upon him. A Courier is juſt now arriv'd to the *French* Ambaſſador, which brought him Power to offer a general Suſpenſion of Arms for a Year or Fourteen Months; and he told the King, that his Maſter had given Mr. *Montagu* that Anſwer, That he could not accept the Propoſitions, but would give ſuch a Suſpenſion if my Maſter pleas'd: Upon which, the King reply'd, That that was a Matter to which he could not anſwer, without firſt knowing the Minds of the Confederates; but he would take it well, if the King of *France* would forbear his Arms in the *Spaniſh Netherlands* for Two Months, in which Time he could inform himſelf of their Minds as to the general Suſpenſion. But the Ambaſſador ſaid, That would only be to loſe Time: And the King reply'd,

That

That without Time to find new Expedients, he could not depart from thoſe he had offer'd; And the Embaſſador has ſaid, he will write: And ſo the Affair ſtands at preſent, but with all the Firmneſs of Reſolution of the King's Part, that he will not hear of the Peace upon other Terms. And I muſt do the Duke that Juſtice, as to aſſure your Highneſs, that no Body can carry themſelves better than he does through this whole Matter.

I hope your Highneſs needs no Repetition of my conſtant Duty and Services to you, being

Your Highneſſes

entirely Devoted Servant,

DANBY.

My

A la Haye, ce 7. Janvier 1678.

Monſieur,

LA crainte que j'ay eû de vous interrompre dans les Affaires de plus grande importance, m'ont empêché de vous écrire plus-toſt pour vous remercier, Monſieur, de toutes vos civilitez & graces, dont vous m'avez comblé durant mon ſejour en *Angleterre*; je croy, Monſieur, que vous ſerez aſſés facilement perſuadé de la joye que l'on a ici de l'heureux changement des Affaires dans vôtre Cour, je vous aſſure auſſi que l'on vous fait Juſtice & que par la part, que tout le monde ſait ici que vous y avez, vous vous attirez milles benedictions, pourvû que les Affaires du Pays Bas ſoient en êtat de pouvoir reſiſter aux ennemis en attendant vôtre ſecours il n'y avoit que cela qui peut le ſauver d'une perte indubitable, ſoit par la paix ou par la Guerre. Nous attendons l'iſſue du voyage de Monſieur de *Montaigu* avec beaucoup d'impatience; cependant, Monſieur, vous pouvez être aſſuré que perſonne du monde n'eſt plus Effectivement que je le ſuis,

Monſieur,

Vôtre tres Humble, &

tres Obeiſſant Serviteur,

W. BENTINCK.

Hague, January 7. 167⅞.

My Lord,

THE Fear I had of interrupting you in your moſt weighty Affairs, hinder'd me from writing ſooner, to return your Lordſhip Thanks for all the Civilities and Favours which you heaped upon me during my Stay in *England*. I believe your Lordſhip will readily believe, how great the Joy is which the happy Change of Affairs at Court has produc'd here; I do aſſure you, that you have Juſtice done you with us: The Share, which all the World knows you have herein, has brought you the Bleſſings of Thouſands. If the Affairs of the Low Countries are but in Condition to ſtop the Enemy ſo long, as till the Succour you are ſending ſhall arrive, that is the only Thing that can preſerve them from inevitable Ruin, either by Peace or by War. We expect with great Impatience the Succeſs of my Lord Ambaſſador *Mountagu*'s Voyage. In the mean Time, my Lord, you may be aſſured that no Perſon in the World is with more Reality than my ſelf,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and moſt Obedient Servant,

W. BENTINCK.

To the PRINCE.

London, Jan. 167⅞.

YOUR Highneſs will find by the King's Letter, which my Lord *Oſſory* brings, that he has Yeſterday receiv'd ſuch an Anſwer from the King of *France*, as makes him conclude, that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty will no longer defer his March into *Flanders*; nor does he give us any other than dilatory Excuſes, which hath much diſſatisfied the King, who is now wholly diſpoſed for going into the War. But the Buſineſs will now be, ſo to adjuſt Matters for the War, as to continue us in the ſame good Humour: And for that End, the King does abſolutely inſiſt upon having *Oſtend* in his Hands for Recruit of his Men, and ſending Proviſions to them; inſomuch that we have ſeveral Times acquainted the Marquis *de Burgomaine* with this Demand of his Majeſty, and he ſtill anſwers, He muſt know firſt the Mind of the D. *de Villa Hermoſa*: Altho' he has had Three Weeks Time to do it, and till that be conſented, the King will not begin to make Levies of Men, but in that Caſe intends only a War by Sea, or in other Places, but not in *Flanders*: For what will concern *Holland*, the principal Buſineſs will be, to have the Naval Preparations very conſiderable, (*viz*)

Seventy

Seventy Capital Ships at leaſt, and in that Particular his Majeſty expects to be aſſured immediately, on the Part of the States. The reſt of the Matters which will be neceſſary to be concerted in order to the War, your Highneſs will find his Majeſty deſires that ſome Body may be ſent hither, to adjuſt as ſoon as may be: Where the Miniſters of the Emperor and of *Spain* will alſo be impower'd to undertake for their Maſters. In my laſt, I acquainted your Highneſs, that the *French* Ambaſſador ſaid, He would write to his Majeſty for the Reſpit of Two Months from War, while the King might ſend to all the Confederates, to know their Mind about a general Suſpenſion of Arms for a Year: And the Anſwer to that has been, That whatſoever the King of *France* ſhall take betwixt this Time and the Firſt of *March*, ſhall be all reſtor'd, in caſe the general Suſpenſion ſhall be agreed on all Hands before the ſaid Firſt of *March*. But he will not agree to ſtand ſtill Two Months, becauſe he ſays, That is but to loſe ſo much Time, and then not have the Suſpenſion accepted. This Expedient the King does not approve; nor will he, I am confident, any they can make, unleſs either the Parliament fail him, or that *Spain* ſhall refuſe *Offend* during the War, and Port *Mahon* in the *Mediterraneum*, or that *Holland* ſhall not furniſh a proportionable

Number

Number of Ships with us; I desire your Highness will please not to take any Notice of their Propositions from *France*; but they have been received so very coldly there, that I am confident the *French* King will thereupon take all his Measures for a War with us. And because his Majesty has also writ already to Mr. *Mountagu*, to desire the Duke of *Monmouth's* Regiment of Horse may be immediately sent over hither, under the Pretence of some Disorder in *Scotland*. My Lord *Dunbarton* goes also to Morrow to bring away his Regiment, and Orders will go in Two or Three Days more for re-calling the rest of his Majesty's Subjects in that Service. Orders is also giving to the Governor of *Gravesend*, to let pass any that are going into the Service of the States; but his Majesty will not let that Order yet be made publick. I wish your Highness could promote the King's Demands from *Spain*, to get them dispatched; because, till that be done, there will be such a Backwardness on our Parts in making Levies, &c. as may lose the most necessary Time of this Year for our Assistance; Besides that, I am of Opinion they ought to desire us to keep it, if we did not demand it. I suppose, there will be no Difficulty in signing the Defensive Treaty which is to take Place after the War; and it will be of Use in the Parliament, to let them know,

That

that ſuch a Treaty is made, as well as the preſent Treaty of Alliance. I ſhould be extream glad to hear your Highneſs's Opinion, in what manner you conceive the War might be made with moſt Advantage againſt *France*, when we ſhall come into it, if this be not too great a Trouble; which I would not put your Highneſs to, but with Intention to ſerve you by it, as will always be my greateſt Ambition, being ſo entirely

Your Highneſſes

Moſt Obedient and

Devoted Servant,

DANBY.

A la Haye, ce 10 Jan. 1678.

‘ VOUS aurez un conte ſi exact, tant
‘ par Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Hyde* que par
‘ Mr. *Thynne*, de ce qui c'eſt paſsé en la
‘ Concluſion du traité, dont vous avez
‘ envoyé le Projet; que ce ne ſeroit que
‘ vous importuner par des redittes ſi je
‘ vous en informois, ainſy je n'adjouteray
‘ a ce qu'ils vous diront que de vous remer-
‘ cier de tout mon cœur d'avoir contri-
‘ bué ſi utilement a l'union de Roy & de
‘ cet Etat: apres quoy j'ay tant ſouhaité,
‘ & de vous prier que le dit Traité, comme
‘ il eſt a preſent couché, puiſſe être ratifié
‘ promtement & les Articles qui ne ſont
‘ point ajuſteé le puiſſe êtres au plus-toſt a
‘ nôtre avantage, pour conſenter a la de-
‘ molition de *Maeſtricht* nous ne le pou-
‘ vons; je ne ſay pas auſſy en avoir parlé,
‘ il eſt bien vray de l'avoir vû dans la Let-
‘ tre écritte de Mr. le Secretaire *Williamſon*
‘ a Mr. *Hyde*; mais, pour ne rien contredire,
‘ je l'a paſsé ſous ſilence n'y ayant rien a-
‘ lors a convenir. Par la Reduction de *Maeſ-*
‘ *tricht*, j'ay toûjours compris *Limbourg*
‘ que, depuis ſa démolition, a toûjours
‘ dependu de cette ville, & qui eſt im-
‘ poſſible

Hague, Jan. 10. 167⅞.

YOU had ſo particular an Account as well by my Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde* as by Mr. *Thynne*, of every Thing that paſſed in order to bring the Treaty, of which you ſent me the Project, to a Concluſion: That if I ſhould ſay any Thing thereof, it would be only troubling you with Repetitions; therefore I ſhall add nothing farther to what you will hear from them, but only my moſt hearty Thanks for the moſt uſeful Pains you took, in bringing about this good Agreement between the King and this State, for which I have ſo earneſtly longed; and my farther deſires that the ſaid Treaty may, according to the preſent Plan, be immediately ratify'd, and the Articles ſtill under Deliberation adjuſted in our Favour as ſoon as may be: The demoliſhing *Maeſtricht* is a Point that can never be conſented to: I do not remember that it ever was ſo much as ſpoken of; I ſaw it indeed mention'd in a Letter from Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* to Mr. *Hyde*, and that not being a proper Time for giving or refuſing Conſent, I took no Notice at all of it to avoid Contradiction. I always thought *Limbourgh* was comprehended in the Surrender of *Maeſtricht*, becauſe ever ſince it was demoliſh'd it hath been a Dependant on that Town; nor can the *French*

‘ poſſible que les François puiſſent garder
‘ étant ſi eloignée de toutes leurs autres Con-
‘ queſtes & Pays. Pour les Chatelanies de-
‘ pendentes des Villes compriſes dans le
‘ traité je ne croy pas qu'il y aye auquune
‘ difficulté, n'y auſſy pour *Binche* que
‘ eſt enclavé au milieu du Pais, l'on n'a
‘ pas parlé de ces particularités a cauſe que
‘ l'on n'eſt jamais entré en traité n'y auſſi
‘ de mes intereſts particulieres, leſquels je
‘ vous recommande de même de vouloir en
‘ avoir ſoin, ſur quoy je me fie entiere-
‘ ment; apres quoy je n'ay plus a vous
‘ prier que de prendre bien garde que les
‘ François ne vous amuſent pas, par des
‘ belles Eſperances: & ayant ôté le maſque
‘ & donné l'offence, comme vous avez
‘ fait a preſent, de ne pas faire les choſes
‘ a demy & que d'abord que vous voyres
‘ qu'ils ne veullent pas la Paix, comme je
‘ ſuis entierement perſuadé, de vouloir
‘ auſſi toſt faire tous vos efforts pour ſau-
‘ ver le reſte des Pays Bas que ſont en
‘ grand danger, vous avez ſi bien com-
‘ mencé cette grande Affaire que je ne
‘ doutte pas que vous ne la paracheverez
‘ de même, ſur quoy je me repoſe entiere-
‘ ment & que vous me croires juſques au
‘ dernier ſoupir de ma vie a vous.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

poſſibly keep it, ſince it lies at ſo great a Diſtance from all their other Countries or Conqueſts. There will, I believe, be no Difficulty about the Chaſtellany's depending on the Towns comprehended in the Treaty, no more than about *Binch*, which lies in the very middle of the Country. They have not hitherto enter'd upon the Treaty, ſo that thoſe Particulars have not as yet fallen under Conſideration, no more than what relates to my particular Intereſts have, the Management whereof I recommend to your Care, in which I place the moſt entire Confidence. I have nothing farther to entreat at preſent, but only, That you would not ſuffer the *French* to amuſe you, by giving you ſpecious and fair Expectations. But as you have now taken off the Mask, and enter'd into the Quarrel not to do Things by Halves; but as ſoon as ever you find that they have no real Intentions for Peace, as I am thoroughly perſuaded they have none, to make the utmoſt Efforts poſſible to ſave the remaining Part of the Low Countries which is now in great Danger. You have made ſo good a Beginning of this weighty Affair, that I make no Queſtion but that you will as happily conclude it. I entirely rely upon your Care of it, and hope you will believe me to the laſt Moment of my Life.

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A la Haye, ce 25 Janvier 1678.

MONSIEUR le Comte d'*Oſſeri* ne faiſant que d'arriver tout preſentement que la Poſte eſt ſur ſon depart, je ne pourray vous répondre cette fois au Lettres, que vous avez plû m'écrire, comme je ſouhaiterois ; au fait du Traité, je me raporte aux Lettres de Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Hyde*, étant extremement marri que l'on aye ſi mal compris ou expliqué mes Intentions, j'eſpere qu'a preſent par l'addition du nouveau Article on ſera entierement ſatisfait, au moin on le doit être ſi l'on va a l'effectif, pour mes penſees au regard de la maniere de faire la Guerre, je vous le feray ſavoir par le premier courrier cependant je vous prie de bien repreſenter, ou il convient, le Danger ou les Pais Bas ſont : 3000 ou 4000 Hommes y feroient a preſent pût être plus de bien que dix en un mois d'ici, & pour ceder la Ville d' *Oſtende* durant la Guerre je n'y voy auquune difficultée. Je dépecheray demain un Expres pour cet effet au Duc de *Villa Hermoſa*, & s'il y avoit moyen de les envoyer la, & de *Newport* promtement, ce ſeroit le plus grand bien du monde.

Quand

Hague, January 25. 167⅞.

MY Lord Earl of *Offory* being juſt now arrived here as the Poſt is going out, I cannot at preſent return an Anſwer, as I intended, to thoſe Letters you have been pleaſed to write to me. As to what concerns the Treaty, I refer my ſelf to my Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde*'s Letters, and ſhall only add, That it is a great Concern to me to find that my Intentions have been either ſo little underſtood, or ſo ill repreſented: I hope, that by the Addition of a new Article, entire Satisfaction will be given; I am ſure it muſt be to all thoſe who are in earneſt. I ſhall by the firſt Courier give you my Thoughts, in what Manner a War ought to be carried on. In the mean Time, I deſire you to take a convenient Opportunity to repreſent the Danger in which the *Low-Countries* now are, where Three or Four Thouſand Men would, it may be, at this Time do more Service than Ten Thouſand can do a Month hence. I can't ſee that any Difficulty will be made about putting *Oſtend* into your Hands. I will ſend away to Morrow an Expreſs for that Purpoſe to the Duke *de Villa Hermoſa*: If you can ſend them forth-

‘ Quand on veût faire les choſes il ne les
‘ faut jamais faire a demy ; en peu de jours
‘ j'envoyeray quelqu'un entendu au Roy ;
‘ & a Monſieur, pour concerter les Affaires
‘ de l'Armement de Mer je ſuis toûjours
‘ comme je doy entierement,

A vous,

G. H. Prince d'Orange.

‘ Parmi toutes ces Affaires importantes,
‘ il faut que je vous écrive d'une qui n'eſt
‘ pas de cette nature, n'y propre en temps
‘ de Guerre : Mais il ſemble que Mr. *Bentinck* a voulu ſuivre l'Exemple de ſon Maiſtre, & va ſe marier a Madame *Villars* ;
‘ vous ſavez l'amitié que j'ay pour luy, &
‘ que je prend autant d'Interest en ces Affaires qu'au miennes propres, ainſy je
‘ ſpere que vous ne trouverez pas mauvais
‘ que je vous faſſe ſavoir que comme la
‘ perſonne qu'il va marier a peu de bien,
‘ & que le dot que la Princeſſe aura n'eſt
‘ pas fort conſiderable, s'il n'y auroit pas
‘ moyen que le Roy eut la bonté de l'augmenter afin que je luy puiſſe donner
‘ l'Augmentation ; vous ſavez que pour
‘ moy quand on a parlé du dot je n'ay jamais inſiſté pour l'Augmenter : Mais ja-

‘ voüe

forthwith thither, and to *Newport*, it will be the greateſt Piece of Service in the World. Whatever is reſolved herein, it ought not to be done by Halves. In a few Days I will ſend a Perſon of Abilities to his Majeſty and your Lordſhip, to concert Matters for the Service at Sea. I am ever, as I ſtand obliged to be,

Your,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

Among all theſe weighty Affairs, there is one of a lighter Nature, which I am obliged to mention to you, though one would think it not ſo proper in theſe Times of War. Mr. *Bentinck* will needs follow his Maſter's Example, and has a Mind to marry Madam *Villars*. You know the Friendſhip I have for him, and that I make his Affairs no leſs my Concern than my own. I hope therefore, that you will not take it amiſs that I acquaint you, That ſince the Perſon he is going to marry has but a ſmall Fortune, and the Portion which the Princeſs will have is not very conſiderable, unleſs Means can be found to gain his Majeſties Favour to augment it, I ſhould be glad of an Augmentation, which I would beſtow upon

‘ voüe qu'a preſent ce ſeroit une Obligation
‘ extreme que je vous auray, ſi vous pou-
‘ viez me procurer cette grace du Roy, que
‘ j'eſtimerois mille fois plus que ſi c'eſtoit
‘ fait a moy même: ſi vous n'étiez autant
‘ de mes amis que vous l'ête, je n'aurois
‘ jamais oſer en uzer ſi familierement; je-
‘ ſpere que vous n'en ſerez pas fâché & aſ-
‘ ſurement vous ne pourrez faire plaiſir a
‘ perſonne qui ſoit plus effectivement vôtre
‘ Serviteur que *Bentinck* & moy.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

upon him. When the Princeſſes Portion was mentioned, you know that for my Part I never deſired it ſhould be increaſed. But upon this Occaſion, I do aſſure you, you will lay a mighty Obligation upon me, if you could procure for me this Favour from his Majeſty, which I ſhall look upon to be a Thouſand Times greater than if it was done to my ſelf. If you was not as much my Friend as you are, I ſhould never venture to uſe this Freedom with you. I hope you will not be offended at it, and you may be aſſured, that you can never do a Kindneſs to any one who can be with more Reality your Servant, than *Bentinck* and my ſelf.

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To

To the PRINCE.

London, 23 *Jan.* 167⅞.

I HAD the Honour of your Highneſs's of the 17 *Jan.* the Day after the Arrival of the Expreſs from *Holland* with the Treaty of Alliance, of which, your Highneſs had an Account Yeſterday, That it was accepted without any Alteration. This Day Mr. *Godolphin* return'd from the D. *de Villa Hermoſa*, who has treated him civilly, but (*under the Roſe* to your Highneſs) ſo very fooliſhly as to their own Concerns in *Flanders*, that unleſs ſome Remedy can be given to it by your Highneſs's Influence upon him, I know not whether it may not change all our Meaſures here, or at leaſt to the ſending any Force into *Flanders*; altho' the Duke *de Villa Hermoſa* his Diſcourſe has been mixt with great Folly, and greater Ignorance (as particularly in his Belief of the Port at *Newport*, That it was capable of receiving a good Ship when the

the King's Yatchts dare not go in there); yet the King is of Opinion, (and I ſaid it this Day to the Marquis of *Bonrgomaine* before his Majeſty) That the Duke *de Villa Hermoſa* is betray'd in his Council, or elſe it were not poſſible to do many of the Things we ſee done, nor to leave undone many Things which are ſo neceſſary for their own Defence; and in this Particular of *Oſtend*, it is moſt certain, that they have now put Arms into the Hands of the Burghers and Seamen of the Town, whoſe Intereſt it is to be under *France*, and have declar'd their Willingneſs to be ſo; inſomuch, that I look upon it as a Garriſon kept for *France* when they pleaſe to come to it. This has not only broke our Meaſures as to *Flanders*, but to the Parliament, who will hardly believe that they can have refuſed to let us put Auxiliaries into *Newport* and *Oſtend*, and do think we have ſome other Deſign for thoſe Men and Ships, which were deſigned to have carry'd Three Thouſand Five Hundred Men to thoſe Places, the Men and Ships being both ready. His Majeſty was very glad to find that he had done that which your Highneſs ſays, in your Letter, would have been of more Uſe now than Ten Thouſand Men a Month hence; and certainly none but Madmen could

could have thought otherwiſe of it. But ſince they muſt be ſaved againſt their Wills, or not at all, I think it will be a principal Step towards their Preſervation, if your Highneſs can retrieve this falſe Meaſure of theirs, by ſending ſome conſiderable Meſſenger ſpeedily to get their Error amended in Time, for I fear the King will defer the Parliament another Week upon it, and a little Time now will loſe the whole Benefit of this Campaign. The *French* Ambaſſador now begins to think, there is no further Hopes of Peace with *England*; and the *French* King has anſwer'd, That as to the Return of our Troops, the Capitulation ſhall be kept, which are not to return till Thirty Days after the War declar'd betwixt *France* and *England*. And in the mean Time, he has order'd the Regiment of *Douglas* to march into *Dauphiné*; and 'tis ſaid, the *French* King begins his March with the whole Court towards *Metz* to Morrow, and that his Deſigns are on *Treves*, *Luxemburg*, or *Chatleraut*: But every Thing is ſo eaſie to him on this Side, (*viz.*) *Ypres*, *Dixmuyde*, *Newport* and *Oſtend*, that 'tis believ'd there will be Men enough left to take ſome or moſt of theſe Places at the ſame Time. Whatever happens, I will not fail to improve the King's good Intentions

tions as far as I can poſſibly, and ſhall eternally be

Your Highneſſes

Obedient Servant,

DANBY.

THE Marquis *de Bourgomaine* has carried himſelf ſo very ill in all this Matter, that nothing can be ſaid worſe of it than he deſerves.

SINCE

A la Haye, ce 29 Janvier 1678.

‘ PUIS que vous voulles ſavoir mes pen-
‘ ſeés, de quelle maniere l'*Angleterre*
‘ pourroit agir le plus utilement quand elle
‘ viendra a romper contre la *France*, je vous
‘ le pourray dire en peu de môts, il faut
‘ qu'elle aye une Flotte conſiderable dans le
‘ Canal, & une Eſquadre aſsé forte dans la
‘ *Mediterranée*, pour empêcher leur Com-
‘ merce, & une armeé de terre auſſi puiſ-
‘ ſante qu'il eſt poſſible, ou pour mettre ſur
‘ la Flotte & tâcher a faire une Deſcente en
‘ *France*, & par la faire une forte Diverſion,
‘ ou l'Envoyer au Pays Bas pour y agir ſe-
‘ lon que les Occaſions s'en preſenteront.
‘ Dans l'etat, ou ſont les Affaires a preſent
‘ je croy le dernier le plus utile, car ſans
‘ que l'on faſſe un grand Effort ou aura bien
‘ de la peine a ſauver le peu du Pais Bas qui
‘ reſte : Sur tout il eſt de la derniere impor-
‘ tance que le Roy, voyant a preſent qu'il
‘ n'y a plus d'apparence de Paix, d'envoyer
‘ promtement a *Nieuport* & *Oſtende* un bon
‘ Corps de Troupes, a quoy je vous conjure
‘ de tenir la main, & de ne pas prendre a
‘ mauvaiſe part que je vous mande ſi naive-
‘ ment mes Sentiments qui ſeront toûjours
‘ a vôtre égard comme je doy a l'Homme du
‘ monde auquel j'ay le plus d'Obligations.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Hague, January 29. 167½.

SINCE you deſire to know my Thoughts how *England* may act with the greateſt Proſpect of Succeſs againſt *France*, in caſe of a Breach with them; I will give you my Opinion in a very few Words. You muſt have a very conſiderable Fleet in the Channel, and a ſufficient Squadron in the *Mediterranean*, to interrupt their Commerce. You muſt likewiſe have as powerful an Army as can be raiſed; which Land-Forces may be either put on Board in order to make a Deſcent upon *France*, and thereby cauſe a very powerful Diverſion, or elſe be tranſported into the *Low-Countries*, there to act according as Occaſion ſhall offer. I think, as Things are at preſent, the latter of theſe two Ways of Employing the Land-Forces is the better; for unleſs a very vigorous Effort be made there, it will be impoſſible to ſave that little that remains of the *Low-Countries*. But ſince there is no Likelihood of a Peace, it is a Thing of the utmoſt Conſequence, that his Majeſty ſends, without Delay, a good Body of Troops to *Newport* and *Oſtend*. I earneſtly intreat you to uſe your Endeavours to get this done, and not to take it amiſs, that I thus freely lay open my Thoughts to you, who are in my Eſteem the Perſon to whom, of all Men living, I have the greateſt Obligations.

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A la Haye, ce 18 Fevrier 1678.

' INCONTINENT apres que J'ay reçu
' la Lettre du Roy & la vôtre, je dé-
' pêche de nouveau un Expres a un En-
' voyé que nous avons a *Bruxelle* de faire
' des fortes & nouvelles Inſtances aupres
' de Monſieur le Duc de *Villa Hermoſa*,
' pour le faire réſoudre a mettre entre
' les mains de ſa Majeſté la ville d'*Oſtende*
' pendant cette Guerre, ſur quoy il a reſolu
' d'y accepter les Troupes que le Roy y
' voudra Envoyer ; ne pouvant le decla-
' rer plus loin avant qu'il n'aye Ordre
' d'*Eſpagne:* & certainment s'il n'en a point,
' comme il proteſte, je ne voy pas qu'il
' en puiſſe faire d'Avantage : Il en à écrit
' a ſa cour. Cependant j'eſpere que le Roy
' y envoyera immediatement les Troupes
' qu'il y avoit deſtinées, puis qu'a preſent
' il n'y a qu'une petite Difference de
' Formalitéz, qui en l'eſſentiel ne ſignifie
' rien, puis qu'en effet vous en ſerez en-
' tierement les Maîtres : C'eſt pourquoy je
' vous conjure de faire vôtre poſſible,
' qu'il n'y ait anqu'un Obſtacle dans
' une Affaire qui eſt ſi neceſſaire pour
' nous tous. Je ſuis bien marri que l'on

' n'a

Hague, February ⅓. 1678.

UPON the Receipt of his Majeſties and your Letters, I immediately diſpatched a particular Expreſs to our Envoy at *Bruſſels*, to make freſh and earneſt Inſtances to the Duke of *Villa Hermoſa*, to preſs him to a Reſolution to put the Town of *Oſtend* into his Majeſties Hands during the War. He has hereupon come to a Reſolution to receive into it the Troops his Majeſty ſhall ſend, not being able to declare himſelf farther upon this Point, 'till he receives the Orders from *Spain*, for which he has wrote. If he has no Inſtructions, as he proteſts he has not, this is all that I can ſee is in his Power to do. In the mean Time, I hope the King will, without Delay, ſend over the Troops he has appointed for this Service; ſince what his Majeſty asks, and what the Duke conſents to, is in Effect the ſame Thing, though there is a little Difference in the Form; for when your Troops are there, you will be in Reality Maſters of the Town. I do therefore moſt earneſtly deſire you to do all that is poſſible, to remove any Obſtacle that

‘ n'a pû encore adjuſter le traité d'Alli-
‘ ance ; mais il y a des certaines For-
‘ malitez en des Republiques que l'on ne
‘ peut changer & qui ſont pourtant fort
‘ ridicules, j'eſpere que devant le depart
‘ du courrier prochain ou les pourra ad-
‘ juſter ſi Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur n'a des Ordres
‘ trop preciſſes, je ſuis toûjours comme je
‘ doy.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

may hinder the doing a Thing ſo neceſſary to the common Good of us both. It is a great Uneaſineſs to me, to ſee that the Treaty of Alliance can't yet be fully adjuſted; which falls out from hence, That in all Commonwealths there are ſeveral Formalities, which though very ridiculous in themſelves, muſt yet be kept up. I hope that before the Departure of the next Courier, unleſs my Lord Ambaſſador's Inſtructions are too ſtiff and formal, every Thing will be adjuſted. I am ever your obliged,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

London, February 9. 167½.

SINCE my Letter of Yeſterday, when I thought Mr. *Godolphin* would have been diſpatcht the ſame Day, I have Reaſon to believe, that the Propoſition about giving *Charlemont*, or ſome other Place, for *Tournay*, will be accepted in *France*: And I have not leſs Reaſon to believe, that the making of the Peace upon that Propoſition, would be very fatal to the Intereſt of the King my Maſter. I confeſs, I cannot ſee, but that the Conſequences muſt be ill to your Highneſs alſo, when the Confederacy ſhall be thereby broken, and we per-

haps tied to ſuch Conditions, as may leave us uncapable of giving you thoſe Aſſiſtances we ought to do: Beſides, the Parliament has now voted 26000 Foot, and 4000 Horſe and Dragoons, and 90 Sail of Men of War; and I am confident will not ſtop there, in caſe his Majeſty will go freely into the War: Which yet they all doubt, and not without Cauſe. I will have no Reſerve to your Highneſs in this Matter; and therefore you muſt know, that Mr. *Ruvigny* (who has been here this Fortnight) goes on *Monday* to the *French* King with this Propoſition, and deſigns to return hither with an Anſwer the Laſt of this Month (our Stile), or the 1ſt or 2d of *March*; and 'till that Time, expects the King will declare nothing againſt him. But his Majeſty has promiſed that, only in caſe they ſhall attempt no Sieges in the mean Time, ſo that this may prove an happy Expedient to hinder them ſo long from making any Progreſs, and may give both you and us ſo much more Time to make our Preparations; And at laſt, unleſs your Highneſs ſhall conſent to this new Propoſal, the King will not be engaged to the *French* at all. From what I have now informed your Highneſs, and more that I muſt not ſay, I hope your Highneſs will not conſent to any Alterations of the firſt Propoſitions by my Lord *Feverſham*; but if I may offer my Advice,

vice, I would not desire the Dispatch of Mr. *Godolphin* too soon, because the King should not think you reject any Propositions of his, without due Consideration. On the other side, I cannot wish him detained above four or five Days, because it will be of absolute Necessity he should be back before the Return of Monsieur *Rouvigny*. You see how entirely I trust my self in your Highnesses Hands, where I can no more doubt of my own Safety, than I can of your Honour, especially since the Design of all this is for the Safety and Honour both of my own Master, and your Highness.

I am sorry to hear, by Report, That the *States* will not bear the *Quota* of 70 Men of War, from 40 Guns upwards: But I hope it is not true, and I desire the Man may be dispatch'd hither by whom you intend to adjust those Matters; as also, That some good Account may be had of the Business of *Ostend*.

I pray your Highness, That this Letter may be burnt, and that I may know your Highnesses Sense fully upon what I have writ, when Mr. *Godolphin* returns; as also that I may then receive a Letter to shew the King, as well as one in Answer to this. I am

Your Highnesses most Devoted Servant,

DANBY.

A la Haye, ce 14. de Fevrier 1678.

CELLE cy n'eſt a autre fin que de vous recommander fort ſerieuſement d'avoir la bonté d'aſſiſter par vôtre puiſſant credit le porteur de celle cy, Mr. le Baron de *Lerinchamp*, qui eſt Envoyé de la part de Mr. le Duc de *Lorraine* au Roy, pour le quel j'ay une ſi grande amitié que je prend fort a coeur tout ce qui luy regarde, ainſi vous ne trouverez pas mauvais que je vous recommande ſes Intereſts, & la Perſonne de Mr. de *Lerinchamp* qui eſt tres honnête Homme, & fort de mes amis, tout ce que vous pourrez faire tant pour l'un que pour l'autre je vous en auray une Obligation tres grande pardeſſus toutes les autres que je vous ay

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

I 1

Mon-

Hague, February 14. 167⅞.

I GIVE you the Trouble of this, on no other Account, than heartily to recommend to your Favour the Bearer of it, the Baron *de Lerinchamp*, and to deſire you to uſe the mighty Intereſt you have, in aſſiſting him in the Affairs he comes about. He comes to his Majeſty, Envoy from the Duke of *Lorrain*; for whom I have ſo real a Friendſhip, that I can't but lay to Heart every Thing that concerns him. I hope therefore you will not take it amiſs, that I recommend his Maſter's Intereſts to your Care, and himſelf to your Favour, who is a very worthy Gentleman, and very much my Friend. Whatever Favours you ſhew him, or Services you do the Duke, will be ſo many new Obligations added to thoſe many former Ones you have already laid upon

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

De la Haye, ce 16 Fevrier 1678.

Monſieur,

« JE vous aſſure que c'eſt avec toute la « Joye, & la reconnoiſſance imaginable, « Monſieur, que j'ay appris de ſon Alteſſe « les obligeantes Expreſſions dont vous vous « êtes ſervi ſur mon ſujet, & de la maniere « que vous avez eu la bonté de vous em- « ployer dans une Affaire qui me regarde, « je n'ay pû tarder a vous témoigner l'Obli- « gation que je vous en ay, Monſieur, vous « ſûppliant tres humblement de vouloir con- « tinuer dans ces Sentiments pour moy, ce « qui pourtant n'augmentera rien au Reſpect, « & a la Veneration que j'ay pour vous « puis que je ſuis dêja autant qu'on le pût « être,

Monſieur,

Vôtre tres Humble, &

tres Obeiſſant Serviteur,

W. BENTINCK.

Hague, February 16. 167⅞.

My Lord,

I DO moſt thankfully aſſure you, That I took the greateſt Pleaſure imaginable in hearing from his Highneſs the favourable Expreſſions your Lordſhip was pleaſed to uſe in Relation to me, and in what an obliging Manner your Goodneſs led you to take the Trouble upon you, of an Affair in which I am nearly concerned. I could not defer acknowledging the great Obligations I lie under to your Lordſhip, and I moſt humbly intreat, that you will continue to have the ſame favourable Opinion of me; which nevertheleſs can never increaſe in me the Reſpect and Veneration that I have for your Lordſhip, ſince I am already as much as it is poſſible for any one to be,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble, and

moſt Obedient Servant,

W. BENTINCK.

A la Haye, ce 25 Fevrier 1678.

‘JE ne puis aſsé exprimer l'Obligation
‘que je vous ay de m'avoir écrit ſi li-
‘brement vos Sentiments ſur la Commiſſion
‘de Mr. *Godolphin*, je vous aſſure en hom-
‘me d'honneur que Perſonne ne ſaura ja-
‘mais rien de cette Lettre, & que je la
‘brulleray ſelon que vous le deſirez, &
‘pour correſpondre a vôtre franchiſe je vous
‘diray naivement tout ce que je ſçay ou
‘penſe en cette Affaire, par laquelle le
‘Roy m'a mis dans un étrange embaras,
‘voullant que je luy donnaſſe mon avis
‘ſur la conſtitution de ſon Royaume, de
‘laquelle je ne puis avoir un jugement ſo-
‘lide comme il eſt neceſſaire dans une
‘Affaire de cette importance, & dont on
‘me rendra en quelque maniere reſponſable
‘ſi les ſuittes n'en ſont pas auſſy heureuſes
‘que je les ſouhaitte, & ce qui eſt pourtant
‘fort incertain, & ſi elles ne le ſont, je
‘n'en auray pas ſeullement a répondre de
‘vôtre coſté mais ici, ou tout le monde
‘ſouhaitte la Paix avec une paſſion dé-
‘reglée m'accuſeroit de l'avoir pû avoir &
‘l'avoir negligée : ce quils feront auſſy s'ils
‘ſavent la Commiſſion de Mr. *de Godol-*

‘*phin*,

Hague February 25. 167⅞.

I WANT Words to expreſs how great an Obligation you have laid upon me, by writing to me ſo freely what your Sentiments are of Mr. *Godolphin*'s Commiſſion. I give you my Word of Honour, that no Perſon ſhall ever know any Thing of your Letter, which, according to your Deſire, I will burn. I will in my Turn uſe the ſame Frankneſs in communicating to you, without reſerve, my whole Thoughts in an Affair which has given me the utmoſt Perplexity. His Majeſty has wrote to me for my Advice with reſpect to the State of his Kingdom, which is almoſt impoſſible for me to give, who have not had Inſight into his Affairs ſufficient to frame ſo ſolid a Judgment of them, as their Weight and Importance requires; and yet muſt in ſome Meaſure be reſponſible for the Conſequences of my Advice, if Matters, the iſſue of which is very uncertain, ſhould not be attended with all that Succeſs I could wiſh. And ſhould what I adviſe prove unſucceſsful, I muſt not only anſwer it to you, but here alſo, where all People being extravagantly deſirous of Peace, I ſhould hardly eſcape the Cenſure of having neglected to bring the Peace about; when

phin, car pour ne vous rien céler la plus part des Etats accepteroient l'Echange de *Charlemont* pour *Tournay* & peut être viendroient a des conditions moindres de Paix, pour éviter la continuation de la Guerre, & ce ne ſera pas ſans des peines extremes que l'on les pourra engager de continuer a ſuporter les frais qui ſont requis. Pour les Eſpagnols je ne ſay de quels ſentiments ils ſeroient s'ils étoient fort aſſurés qu'en donnant *Charlemont* l'on auroit la Paix ſur les Condition cogniües, car pour *Luxembourg* ou *Ypres* il n'y faut Jamais ſonger, nonobſtant tout cecy j'ay creu ne pouvoir donner en bonne conſcience autre avis que j'ay donné au Roy, puis que je ſuis entierement perſuadé, qu'elle eſt conforme a ſes interêts & a ceux de cét Eſtat, & qu'au retour de Mr. *de Ruvigni* l'on pourra toûjours voir juſque ou la *France* voudra venir & en ſuitte prendre ſes meſures; puis qu'il eſt de la plus mechante conſequence du monde qu'il ſongeroit ſeulement que l'on voulût en auquune maniere venir a des conditions de Paix moindres que celles qui ont été proposées, & il eſt certain que ſi le Roy ne les avoit fait propoſer des le commencement les conditions les plus baſſes ou nous pourrions venir, & qu'au contraire ſa Majeſté en demande d'advantage comme vous ſavez que j'ay

fort

when it will be thought, eſpecially if Mr. *Godolphin*'s Commiſſion comes once to be publickly known to have been in my Power to have effected it. For to conceal nothing from you, the generality of the States will make no Scruple to accept of *Charlemont* inſtead of *Tournay*, and perhaps will be content to condeſcend even to lower Terms of Peace, rather than be perſuaded to carry on any longer a War; for the Support of which, they find they cannot, without all the Difficulty in the World, raiſe Money ſufficient. As for the *Spaniards*, I can't ſay what their Sentiments might be, if they had full Aſſurance, that upon yielding up *Charlemont*, a Peace might be had upon the Terms propoſed; but to think of *Luxembourgh*, or *Ipres*, is the vaineſt Thing in the World. Notwithſtanding all this, I thought I could not in Conſcience give his Majeſty any other Advice than what I did, it being what I am verily perſuaded is moſt for his Majeſty's real Intereſt, as well as for that of the States. Upon Mr. *de Ruvigni*'s Return from *France*, it will appear what are the laſt Intentions of that Court, and accordingly what Meaſures are to be taken: Since it is of the moſt fatal Conſequence in the World, that it ſhould be ſo much as imagin'd, that any Terms of Peace, lower than thoſe propos'd, can ever be agreed to. It is certain, had not his Majeſty at firſt,

when

‘ fort ſouhaité & extremement preſſé nous
‘ aurions deja la Paix, ou ſi la *France* n'eut
‘ vû la grande repugnance qu'il y a à vôtre
‘ cour pour entrer en Guerre & le peu
‘ d'envie qu'il y a ici de la continuer, ce
‘ qui me met le plus en peine, car ſans ce-
‘ la je vous aſſure que je ne ſeray pas du
‘ Sentiments dont je ſuis, je crains auſſy
‘ fort que la Commiſſion de Mr. *de Godol-*
‘ *phin* ne ſera pas tenüe ſecrette puis que
‘ déja ici je ne les ay pû perſuader qu'il
‘ ne venoit pas parler de paix mais au con-
‘ traire de Guerre. Apres quoy je n'ay
‘ plus à adjoûter a ce que je vien de dire
‘ que de vous prier de même que vous
‘ m'aves fait de ne montre cette Lettre a
‘ Perſonne & de la vouloir Bruller auſſi
‘ toſt que vous l'aurez lue.

Je ſuis comme je doy,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

LE

when he propos'd the Conditions of Peace, made the Terms as low as it was poſſible for us to conſent to, but had made his Propoſals higher, as you know I earneſtly deſir'd, and with great Vehemence preſſed him to do, the Peace had been made before this; which nothing could have hinder'd, unleſs it were that *France* ſees the great Backwardneſs which your Court ſhews to enter into the War, and the little Stomach they have here to continue it: And this it is that gives me the greateſt Uneaſineſs, and makes me, I do aſſure you, entertain thoſe Sentiments of Affairs which I now do. I have great Reaſon to fear, that Mr. *Godolphin*'s Commiſſion will not continue long a Secret, ſince I find it ſo difficult to perſuade them here, that the Buſineſs he comes over about is not to Negotiate a Peace, but on the contrary, a War. I have nothing more at preſent, but to deſire the ſame Favour of you that you did of me, which is to let no Body ſee this, but be pleas'd to burn it when you have read it. I am,

Your moſt obliged,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

March 4. 167⅓.

I HAVE receiv'd the Honour of your Highneſſes Letter from *Malines* of the Fifth of *March* (New Stile), and am ſorry to underſtand by it the ill Poſture of that Country; but I muſt needs ſay, that the ill Conduct of the *Spaniards*, both there and here, has contributed full as much to it as the good Conduct of the *French*. They have not only been the Cauſe why Succours have not been ſooner ſent from hence; but I am ſure, their Negotiations here amongſt the Parliament Men, has been a very great Cauſe of the ſlow Proceedings to give Supplies for the neceſſary Preparations for a War, and there is not yet one Act in Readineſs for any Money, either to pay the Troops already raiſed, or to give Levy-Money to thoſe Troops which ſhould be raiſed, and for which the Commiſſions have been ready a good while. However, his Majeſty will in a Day or Two give out Commiſſions for Twenty Regiments more, and procure Money for the Raiſing of them as well as he can. I have ſent your Highneſs, incloſed, a Copy of Mr. *Hyde*'s Letter to me of the Eighth Inſtant *N. S.* which has not a little ſurpriz'd his Majeſty, as giving him too juſt a Ground to fear that the States will have a Peace upon any Terms,

Terms, and that it will neither be in his Power nor yours to hinder it. For this Reaſon, his Majeſty thinks it highly neceſſary to know your Opinion in that Matter, and deſires that your Highneſs will not flatter your ſelf in it, being the moſt fatal Miſtake both to him and your ſelf which can be made, if any wrong Meaſure ſhould be taken of what the States will do in this Point. His Majeſty has commanded me at the ſame Time to let your Highneſs know, that the *French* Ambaſſador has told him, That he has Power to ſign the Treaty ſent by my Lord *Feverſham*, excepting *Tournay*, *Valenciennes* and *Condé*. And tho' his Majeſty hath refuſed to propoſe any ſuch Thing as from himſelf, he thinks it fit you ſhould know what is now offer'd ſince the taking of *Ghent*. And his Majeſty has likewiſe bid me acquaint your Highneſs, that the ſaid Ambaſſador has told him, That the Pope's Nuntio did on the Part of *Spain* offer to quit *Tournay* before the Siege of *Ghent*. This, together with what the Penſioner has ſaid to Mr. *Hyde*, and his Majeſty's unprepar'd Condition to give any preſent conſiderable Aſſiſtance to your Highneſs, did move his Majeſty to agree to the leaving *Tournay* and *Valenciennes* out of the Propoſitions of the Peace, in caſe your Highneſs and the *Spaniards* ſhould deſire the Peace on thoſe Terms; and he has a Belief, that upon them a Peace may yet be had be-

fore they have taken any more Places, altho' they ſeem very poſitive for *Condé* alſo: And his Majeſty will by no Means be any Judge of this Matter until he hears from your Highneſs, being reſolv'd on his Part to purſue his late Treaty of Alliance with the States to the utmoſt of his Power. But in caſe any of theſe Propoſitions ſhall be found neceſſary in the preſent Conjuncture of Affairs, he deſires by your Means to know the Mind of *Spain* as well as of the the States, becauſe he will act nothing that ſhall not be according to the Deſires of both: And if ſuch a Peace ſhall be judged more convenient than the Continuation of the War, his Majeſty does believe it muſt either be done ſpeedily, or the Terms hereafter will be worſe. If any Thing of this Kind ſhall be approv'd, it will be of the utmoſt Importance, both to the King and your Highneſs, that it ſhould be kept very ſecret, and that nothing ſhould appear but a Ceſſation of Arms, whilſt the Matters be formally treated and concluded at *Nimeguen*. Mr. *Godolphin* is intruſted with this whole Affair, but his Majeſty would have the ſecret Parts of it return'd only to himſelf, and not to any of the Secretaries of State, but that general Anſwers may be return'd to the Letter your Highneſs will receive from Secretary *Williamſon*, who your Highneſs will perceive, by Mr. *Hyde*'s Letter, is not

made

made acquainted that *Tournay* and *Valenciennes* (or one of them) is the Interpretation of the particular Expreſſion of [*tant ſoit peu ſeure*] only his Majeſty has thought it neceſſary, that what the *French* Ambaſſador has ſaid to him, ſhould be communicated by Mr. *Godolphin* to the Penſioner; both becauſe of the intire Confidence you have always expreſs'd to have in him, and that it comes ſo near to what he propoſes to Mr. *Hyde*, which he thinks would be a great Service done both to the States, and to your Highneſſes Intereſt, which he is of Opinion nothing but a Peace can eſtabliſh. What his Majeſty has done as to the ſending Troops to *Oſtend* and *Bruges*, your Highneſs will underſtand from Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s Letter; ſo that I have nothing more to trouble you withal, ſaving that your Highneſs may fully underſtand, that if any Thing about the Peace ſhall be thought convenient, the Propoſals for it muſt proceed wholly from *Spain* and the States to his Majeſty, and that he have no other Part in it than to uſe his Endeavours at their Requeſt to procure ſuch a Peace as they ſhall deſire him to get for them: And in the mean Time his Majeſty has commanded me to bid your Highneſs reſt aſſured, that he doth not, nor will not loſe one Moment in acting all he can for your Aſſiſtance. I am

Your Highneſſes moſt Obedient
and Devoted Servant,

A Bonn, ce 27 Mars 1678.

LE vent contraire a été cauſe que Mr. *Godolphin* na pû arriver que hier ici, j'ay envoyé auſſi tôt a Mr. le Duc de *Villa-Hermoſa*, luy donner part de ſa Commiſſion, afin de ſavoir ſes Intentions là deſſus: Et, pour ne vous point importuner par une longue Lettre, je vous diray en peu de mots ſa reponſe que Mr. *Godolphin* vous dira au long. Qu'il acceptera les Conditions de Paix que l'Ambaſſadeur de *France* a propoſé au Roy, ſavoir *Valenciennes* & *Tournay* demeureront a la *France*, & le reſte remis a l'*Eſpagne* ſelon le Traité que ſa Majeſté a fait avec l'état: Pour nous, nous ſerons de même & ainſy voila la Paix faite ſi la *France*, continue a la vouloir ſur ce pied, de quoy je doute fort, il eſt neceſſaire de le ſavoir promtement, & ſi elle ne ſe fait point, que vous déclariez la Guerre ſans plus de perte de tems, je ne vous diray pas les Raiſons pourquoy nous Conſentirons a une Paix ſi pernitieuſe, ny les mauvaiſes ſuittes qui en pourront Reſulter, puis que j'ay prié Mr. *Godolphin* de repaſſer en *Angleterre*

afin

Bonn, March 27. 1678.

THE contrary Winds kept Mr. *Godolphin* at Sea 'till Yesterday, when he landed. I sent immediately to the Duke *de Villa Hermosa*, to acquaint him with his Commission, and to know what Resolutions he would come to thereupon. To save you the Trouble of a long Letter, I will tell you that in short, of which you will have a large Account from Mr. *Godolphin*: The Duke says, He will agree to those Conditions of Peace which the *French* Ambassador has proposed to his Majesty; that is, That *Valenciennes* and *Tournay* shall remain to *France*, and all the rest be restored to *Spain*, according to the Treaty his Majesty has made with the States. As for us, we shall agree to it; and thus is the Peace made, if *France* continues willing to have it on this Foot, which I very much question. It is very necessary to know as soon as possible, what *France* resolves herein; and if they do not agree to it, it is as necessary, that you declare War immediately without any farther Loss of Time. I will not now tell you the Reasons which induce us to consent to so destructive a Peace, nor the ill Consequences which in all Probability will result

‘ afin de le pouvoir faire mieux que je
‘ pourrois écrire d'Affaires d'auſſi grandes
‘ Importances, ainſi je n'ajoûteras plus a
‘ celle ici, que de vous Aſſurer que je ſuis
‘ comme toûjours entierement

A vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

from it; since I have desired Mr. *Godolphin* to go back into *England*, and he will be able to give you a better Account of Affairs of this high Consequence by Word of Mouth, than it is possible for me to do in a Letter; For which Reason I shall add nothing more, but an Assurance that I am, and ever shall be entirely

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

London, April 16. 1678.

WE are so surprized here at the Obstructions given by the States to the General Treaty of Alliance betwixt us, the Emperor, *Spain* and them, that it has put Things amongst us into greater Uncertainties than ever: And that which amazeth most is, to find them stop upon the Hindring all Traffick with *France*, when Monsieur *van Beuningen* has insisted so long to gain it here, and, as he said, by the States Order, to assure the King of their entring into the same Obligations; but pretends now not to have the same Power, when there is most Need of it. We are not able to understand the Meaning of this, at a Time when my Master is so ready to go into the utmost Alliances against *France*, which any of the Confe-

Confederates will come up to; and to declare the War whenever these Treaties can be perfected: But if it should proceed out of an over-earnest Desire of a Peace (which is said here to be the Cause) I am sure it is the worst Way which can be taken to have one.

In short, I can assure your Highness, that the Fault will not be on our Part if the War against *France* be not pursued to the utmost; and there hath nothing hindred it hitherto, nor will yet, so much as the suffering our selves to be still deluded by *France* with daily Expectations of a Peace: And if that Expectation could be driven out of the Peoples Heads in your Country, it would quickly be taken out of ours by the Effects which would soon follow. We have received in Print the Propositions of a Peace made by the *French* at *Nimeguen*, which I am glad of, both for the Illness of them which I hope can be liked by no Body, and for the Falseness of that Part which concerns my Master about *Sweden*, and which hath so exasperated him, that he is resolved to let the World know the Falseness of it. Mr. *Godolphin* will acquaint your Highness at large, what Resolutions are taken here with the Ministers of the Emperor and *Spain*, in case the States will not come up to what we all desire jointly, and which ought to be a Secret, as well to your Highness as the States, but that we are so well assured of your

High-

Highneſſes being of our Mind, and not theirs, in the Matter of ſupporting the War: And therefore in my Opinion, one principal Thing to be done by your Highneſs (who hath ſo abſolute Power upon the Penſioner) is to get the Peace out of his Head, ſo as to make him employ his Time in the States to encourage them to the War, and to let them ſee that it can be by War only that a tolerable Peace can be hoped for. The want of Monſieur *van Beuningen* being ſufficiently impowred, has occaſioned an Adjournment of the Parliament to the 29th Inſtant; and above all I muſt confeſs, that I lament the Condition both of my Maſter and your ſelf, who have more Difficulty to ſave your Friends at Home, than you would have to beat your Enemies, if our Parliament and your States would do what they ought, for the Preſervation both of themſelves and the reſt of *Chriſtendom*: Whereas I do from my Soul, believe they contribute more to the Service of the *French* King, and to his Succeſſes, than the beſt Army he has could do. As it is, the beſt I can hope will depend upon a clear and good Anſwer from *Holland*, as to their Conjunction in this Quadruple League, and I doubt not but your Highneſs will put your utmoſt Help to it, as I ſhall ever, to ſhew my ſelf

Your Highneſſes moſt
Devoted Humble Servant,
DANBY.

A la Haye, ce 3 May 1678.

Je ne vous diray rien de la maniere que nous avons ajusté les choses avec Mr. Churchill, puis qu'il vous en informera: Mr. Godolphin est arrivé hier au soir. Je suis bien marry de n'avoir pû effectuer si promptement ce que le Roy desiroit, & qui est si necessaire: Mr. l'Ambassadeur Hyde, & luy vous en informeront au long, je n'oze pas vous en dire d'avantage; J'espere que de vôtre costé vous ferez ce que vous devez pour moy, je ne manqueray jamais du mien, ny d'être toute ma vie entierement

A vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Man-

Hague, May 3. 1678.

IT is needleſs to acquaint you in what Manner we have adjuſted Matters with Mr. *Churchill*, who will himſelf give you an Account. Mr. *Godolphin* arrived here Yeſternight. It is no ſmall Trouble to me, that I have not been able to diſpatch that Affair his Majeſty deſired, and is in its ſelf ſo neceſſary. My Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde*, and he himſelf, will give you an Account of it at large: I dare mention no more of it at preſent. I hope, that on your Part you will do all that lies in you for me; as on my Part, I ſhall never be wanting to you. I am, and ſhall be as long as I live, entirely

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A la Haye, ce 4 May 1678.

Monsieur,

JE n'ay pas voulu laisser partir le Sieur de *Leeuwen* de *Leyde*, Deputé ordinaire a l'Assemblée de Messieurs les Estats, & qu'ils ont trouvé a propos dans la Conjuncture present, d'Envoyer en toute Diligence au Roy sans vous le Recommander par ce mot, & vous prier de vouloir faciliter en Cour les Affaires qu'il a en charge; Je croy que vous estes assez persuadé de mon Amitié & de mes bonnes Intentions pour vostre Service, il vous en renouvellera pourtant les Assurances de ma Part, & vous priera de vouloir croire comme une verité fort sincere que je suis,

Monsieur,

Vôtre tres Humble Serviteur,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Hague, May 4. 1678.

My Lord,

I WAS unwilling that the Sieur *de Leeuwen* of *Leyden*, Deputy in Ordinary to the Aſſembly of their Highneſſes the States, and whom they have thought convenient to diſpatch away with all Speed to his Majeſty at this preſent Juncture, ſhould go without a Recommendation from me by a Line or two to you, to deſire you to aſſiſt him at Court in the Affairs that he is ſent about. Although I believe you are ſufficiently convinced of my Friendſhip, and the great Inclination I have to do you any Service; yet he will from me give you a freſh Aſſurance of them, and intreat you to believe it as a moſt ſincere Truth, that I am,

My Lord,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

MY

A Honſlaerdyck, ce 20 Juin 1678.

‘MR. l'Ambaſſadeur *Hyde* vous informera au long de mes Sentiments ‘ſur l'état preſent des Affaires, & comme il ‘les a laiſsée ici, je l'ay prié de parler au ‘Roy d'une qui me touche en mon particulier, qui eſt le Payement du premier ‘terme du dot de ma Femme, lequel eſt ‘échû il y a plus d'un mois, & comme j'ay ‘grand beſoin d'Argent, j'eſpere qu'il n'y ‘aura auqu'une difficultée que je le puiſſe ‘avoir ſans plus de délay, c'eſt de vous ‘ſeul Monſieur que j'attend cette faveur laquelle vous avez eu la bonté de me promettre en partant d'*Angleterre*, que vous ‘preniez cette Affaire a vôtre Charge, j'eſpere donc que j'auray bientôt les Effets ‘de vôtre promeſſe, & ce ſera un ſurcroits ‘d'Obligation que je vous aurays, & m'engagera de plus en plus, d'être ſans auqu'une reſerve abſolument,

A vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Honſlaerdyck, June 20. 1678.

MY Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde* will give you a particular Account what my Sentiments are of the preſent State of Affairs, and in what Condition he has left Matters here. I have deſired him to repreſent to his Majeſty one Thing, in which I am particularly concerned; which is, That the firſt Payment of my Wife's Portion may be ordered, which ſhould have been made above a Month ago. I have preſſing Occaſions for Money, and therefore hope no Difficulty will be made, but that I may receive it without any farther Delay: It is from your Favour only, my Lord, that I can look for this Piece of Service; and you was ſo kind as to promiſe me when I left *England*, to take upon your ſelf the Care of it. I hope I ſhall ſoon ſee the Effects of your Promiſe, which will be an Addition to the Obligations I lie under to you, and will more and more engage me to be, without Reſerve, abſolutely

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

London, July 1. 1678.

THE Scene of Things ſeems to be much changed, by the *French* refuſing of the Towns; and I will not trouble your Highneſs with a large Diſcourſe how we look upon it here, becauſe Sir *William Temple* will give your Highneſs that Account very amply. But in ſhort, I am confident, that (in caſe the King of *France* ſhall perſiſt to refuſe the Surrender of the Towns, as he hath done poſitively to our Ambaſſador at *Paris*) it will wholly depend upon the States what Meaſures we ſhall take here, altho' without an Aſſurance of their maintaining 25 or 30000 Men in *Flanders* during the War, and prohibiting the Commerce, and not making Peace but by mutual Conſent betwixt *England* and the States, you will get us to nothing; and with thoſe Aſſurances, I believe we ſhall go as far as you can deſire. In the mean Time, you are to expect our doing all that is poſſible to perſwade the King of *France* to give up the Towns; and to that End, my Lord *Sunderland* is going to *Paris* in a Day or two, to try if he can prevail to get it done; but if he

he cannot get a certain Anſwer in Ten Days, he is to return, and I believe we ſhall take that for an abſolute Refuſal. But no Body here will believe it reaſonable for us to engage (who are out of the War) until we can be aſſured, that you (who are already in it) ſhall not abandon us when you think fit; ſo that I take your whole Work to lie, in finding how to give us that Aſſurance. I ſhall leave all my own Apologies to be made by Sir *William Temple*, and am ſure he will be able to give your Highneſs Satisfaction in all Points which may have concerned me in the paſt Negotiations, having always been, what I reſolve ever to continue, as I ought,

Your Highneſſes moſt Devoted

Humble Servant,

DANBY.

A Honſlaerdyck, ce 26 Juillet 1678.

‘ JE ne vous informeray pas au long, de
‘ ce qui c'eſt paſſé dans la Negotiation
‘ de Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Temple*, puis que ſans
‘ doute il le fera plus Exactement que je le
‘ pourray faire, je vous diray ſeulement que
‘ tout autre que luy en ce pays n'en ſeroit
‘ pas venu about, & que la confiance que
‘ l'on a en ſa perſonne a beaucoup contri-
‘ bué a la Concluſion d'une choſe qui eſt ſi
‘ importante pour les deux Nations, je me
‘ ſuis engagé en un point vers l'Etat, que
‘ j'eſpere par vôtre bonne conduite l'on ne
‘ me fera pas paſſer pour menteur, c'eſt que
‘ comme dans le Traité il n'eſt point ſpeci-
‘ fié le jour que le Roy declareroit la Guerre,
‘ je les ay aſſuré que ce ſeroit immediate-
‘ ment apres l'Onziême du mois d' *Aouſt* qui
‘ eſt le Terme fixé avant lequel il faut que
‘ la *France* ſe declare ſur l'Evacuation des
‘ Villes, & comme l'on ne peut donner aû-
‘ tre ſens au Traité, & qu'auſſi c'eſt le but
‘ pourquoy il a été fait, j'eſpere quil n'y
‘ aura auqu'une difficulté, ce qui m'a auſſi
‘ obligé ſans ſcrupule le prendre ſur moy,
‘ & ſi cela venoit a preſent a manquer, vous
‘ jugerez facilement quel Prejudice cela me

‘ Cauſe-

Honſlaerdyck July 26. 1678.

I NEED not give you any particular Account of what has paſs'd in my Lord Ambaſſador *Temple*'s Negotiation, ſince he moſt certainly will do it with more Exactneſs than I can. I will only tell you, That no other Perſon but himſelf could in this Country have brought about what he has done; and that the good Opinion which every Body here has of him, has greatly contributed to bring an Affair of this mighty Importance to both Nations to its Concluſion. I have taken upon my ſelf to be anſwerable to the States for the Performance of one Particular; and I hope that, by your good Conduct, Breach of Promiſe ſhall never be laid to my Charge. What I have undertaken for, is this; Whereas in the Treaty no Day is mentioned on which the King will declare War, I have aſſured them it ſhall be immediately after the Eleventh of *Auguſt*, which is the Time limited for *France* to declare it ſelf about Evacuating the Towns. Since the Treaty it ſelf can be underſtood in no other Senſe, and as this is the principal End of making it, I hope it will meet with no Difficulty;

‘ Causeroit ici en mon Credit, au reste j'ay
‘ prié Mr. l'Ambassadeur de vous represen-
‘ ter diverses choses de ma part, a quoy je
‘ me refereray & n'adjouteray a celle cy que
‘ de vous assurer de la veritable Passion
‘ avec laquelle je suis entierement,

A vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

which made me ſo readily take upon my ſelf to promiſe it ſhould be done: If it ſhould not, you will eaſily imagine how much I ſhould ſuffer here in my Credit. As for other Affairs, I refer you to my Lord Ambaſſador, whom I have deſired to repreſent to you ſeveral Matters from me. I ſhall add no more at preſent, but only intreat you to be aſſured of that real Paſſion wherewith I am entirely

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

To the PRINCE.

London, 12 *August*, 1678.

HIS Majesty received your Highnesses of the 16/26 with great Satisfaction, to find that you had gone with so much Honour through so great an Undertaking as that at *St. Dennis*, where you encounter'd so many Difficulties: I hope it is a good Omen of what is to follow; and I can assure your Highness, you will want nothing in which his Majesty can contribute to your good Fortune. The King has been much surprized with the hasty Steps the States have made towards the Peace, and has sent Mr. *Hyde* this Day into *Holland* to acquaint them with his Sense of it; which in short is, That the *French* have not perform'd their own Project at *Nimeguen* in *April*; and consequently that the Treaty betwixt *England* and *Holland*, which was last ratified, is in Force, and ought to be put in Execution. Mr. *Hyde* is also to let them know, That if they shall do what they ought towards him and *Spain*, he will certainly stand by them for the Neutrality of *Cleves* and *Juliers*; and if they shall be of his Opinion, and declare so, (*viz.*) That the *French* have not complied with the Project of *Nimeguen*, (having neither made any due Declaration thereof before

fore the 11th of *Auguſt*, and having made new Demands from *Spain* which were not contained in that Project, his Majeſty will alſo be ready on his Part immediately to declare the War againſt *France*. By this your Highneſs will ſee, that the Peace or War will wholly depend upon the Reſolution of the States, which I hope your Highneſs will have in your Power to influence; and I am commanded by his Majeſty to aſſure you, That he will do nothing in either, but what ſhall be by Conſent with your ſelf.

We are not without Expectations to hear of a ſecond Engagement, where I wiſh you may have had the Aſſiſtance of our *Engliſh* Battalions which were marching towards you, and of which you may ſpeedily receive additional Recruits, if the War continues. But (as his Majeſty has already intimated to the States by Mr. *Hyde*) he will not draw a War with *France* upon himſelf, only to make an unſafe Peace for *Holland*, and none, or a ruinous one, for *Spain*; but will, in that Caſe, rather withdraw his Troops from thoſe Countries as faſt as he can. With all the Prayers, and good Wiſhes, for the Happineſs and good Succeſs of your Highneſs, I remain, as I ought to be,

Your Highneſſes moſt Devoted

and Humble Servant,

DANBY.

A Honſlaerdyck, ce 1 Sept. 1678.

DEPUIS mon retour ici j'ay été ſi fort occupé qu'il m'a été impoſſible de vous écrire. J'ay receu celle que vous m'avez écrit par ordre du Roy, trois jours apres l'arivée de Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur, qui vous aura informé auſſy bien que Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Temple*, en quel état les Affaires ſont ici, je croy qu'en peu de jours nous ſerons éclairé s'il y aura Guerre ou Paix, pour mes Sentiments je les ay dit ſi plainement a Mr. l'Ambaſſadeur *Temple* qui m'a dit de vous en avoir informé, que je ne vous en importuneray pas d'avantage, & ne feray celle-cy plus longue que de vous prier de ſonger au payement du dot de ma femme, & d'être aſſuré de la paſſion avec laquelle je continueray d'être toute ma vie entierement a vous.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

VOUS

Honſlaerdyck, *Sept.* 1. 1678.

I HAVE been ſo much taken up ever ſince my Return hither, that it has been impoſſible for me to write to you. I receiv'd the Letter, which you wrote by his Majeſty's Order, Three Days after the Ambaſſador's Arrival: You will receive, both from him and Sir *William Temple*, an Account of the Condition that Affairs are in here. I believe, within few Days we ſhall fully ſee whether we are to have War, or Peace. I have open'd my Mind ſo plainly on this Subject to my Lord Ambaſſador *Temple*, who tells me he has acquainted you with my Sentiments hereof, that I ſhall not trouble you with the Repetition of them now: Nor will I add any Thing farther, but my Deſires that you would think of the Payment of my Wife's Portion, and aſſure your ſelf, of the great Paſſion with which I ſhall all my Life-time continue yours entirely.

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

A la Haye, ce 12 Novemb. 1678.

VOUS m'avez asſuré d'une maniere ſi obligeante que je ſerois payé, en peu, de la moitié du dot de ma femme, qui eſt échu, que je croy que vous ne trouvera pas mauvais que je vous en renouvelle la Memoire, vous priant d'avoir la bonté de m'en faire ſentir les effets ayant à preſent grand beſoin d'argent, J'eſpere donc que vous aurez la bonte de donner les ordres neceſſaires afin que je ſois payé promtement; je ſuis marry d'etre obligé de vous importuner à preſent de mes Affaires particulieres; puis que vous en avez de ſi facheuſes au Parlement, leſquelles je prie Dieu de vouloir faire tourner au bien de la Famille Royale, & du Royaume, quoy que puiſſe arriver je ne changeray jamais d'etre entierement à vous,

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Hague, November 22. 1678.

YOU have in ſo obliging a Manner given me an Aſſurance, that I ſhould in a ſhort Time receive that Moiety of my Wife's Portion which ſhould have been paid ſome Time ſince, that I believe you will not be offended that I take the Liberty to remind you of it, intreating the Favour of you to let me ſee the Effects of your kind Promiſes, now at a Time when I have great occaſion for Money. I hope therefore you will be ſo kind, as to give the neceſſary Orders that I may be immediately paid. I am very much concern'd that I am forc'd to give you Trouble in any Affairs of mine, when you meet with ſo much in your own from the Parliament; I pray God it may all conclude in the Good of the Royal Family, and of the Kingdom: Yet let what will happen, nothing can alter me from being for ever entirely yours,

W. H. *Prince of* ORANGE.

Hague,

A la Haye, ce 13 Jan. 1679.

‘ JE ſuis trop de vos amis de n'avoir appris avec un extreme Chagrin, les fâcheuſes Affaires que vos Ennemis, tachent de vous faire au Parlement. J'eſpere ‘ que vous en ſortirez a vôtre avantage, & ‘ j'aurez une joye extreme d'être capable ‘ de vous y ſervir, & en toute autre Occaſion ou j'en ſerez en pouvoir. De toutes ‘ les Accuſations qu'ils font contre vous celle ‘ d'être dans l'interêt de la *France* eſt la moins vray, & tous ceux qui vous connoiſſent ſavent aſſé le contraire, s'ils veulent dire la verité : pour moy j'en ſuis entierement perſuadé, & je croi pourtant ‘ d'en ſavoir quelque choſe ; Enfin vous ‘ êtes ſubject a ce que tous les honneſtes ‘ gens ſont quelque fois, c'eſt d'être accuſé ‘ a tort. Je ne vous importuneres plus dans ‘ un tems ou vous avez tant d'Affaires ſur ‘ les bras ; mais ay cru vous devoir temoigner la part que je prend a tout ce qui ‘ vous touche, comme étant ſans reſerve ‘ entierement a vous.

G. H. *Prince d'*ORANGE.

Hague, January 13. 167⅞.

I AM too much your Friend to hear, without the greateſt Concern, the Misfortunes into which your Enemies in Parliament are aiming to bring you. I hope you will get through them to your Advantage, and ſhould find the greateſt of Pleaſures in being able to do you any Service, either on this or any other Occaſion, that ſhall lie in my Power. Of all the Accuſations that your Enemies could have contriv'd againſt you, this of being in the *French* Intereſt has the leaſt Pretence to Truth; the contrary of which, every Body that knows you can't but own, if they would but ſpeak the Truth. As for my ſelf, I am fully convinc'd of it, and I think, I ſpeak to my Knowledge: You have at laſt met with that Misfortune which many honeſt Men do, that is, to be falſly accus'd. I will not give you any farther Trouble, at a Time when you have ſo much Buſineſs upon your Hands; but yet I thought my ſelf oblig'd in this manner to teſtifie the Share I bear in every Thing that concerns you, as being, without any Reſerve, for ever

Yours,

W. H. *Prince of* Orange.

London, *February* 11. 167½.

I SHOULD very unwillingly trouble your Highneſs with a Letter, until I could write a full Satisfaction in the Matter of your Highneſs's Money: But I was earneſtly intreated by my Lord *Sunderland* to recommend him to your Highneſs, as one devoted to your Service; and ſince he has been deſirous of his own Accord to offer it to your Highneſs, I hope you may rely upon it. When I had begun this Letter, I receiv'd a lucky Meſſage from my Lady *Temple*, which gave a freſh Occaſion of putting the King in Mind of his former Intentions, to employ my Lord Ambaſſador *Temple* as one of his Secretaries of State; and it has met with ſo good Succeſs, that his Majeſty has been pleas'd to call him over immediately: And altho' it be not a preſent Revocation from the Embaſſy, yet I hope that will ſhortly follow, and his Lordſhip become a more uſeful Servant to your Highneſs here, than he can be in *Holland*. I am ſo tired this Day with Writing, that I would have forborn my Lord *Sunderland*'s Compliment till next Poſt, but that I knew your Highneſs would be well enough ſatisfied with the News concerning Sir *William Temple*, by whoſe Aſſiſtance,

your

your Servants will be very ſtrong in this Court. You will pleaſe to let this be private, becauſe there is nothing yet known of it here. I am,

Your Highneſſes moſt

truly Obedient Servant,

DANBY.

REMARKS

REMARKS

On ſome of the

Prince's Letters.

I HAVE publiſhed more of the Prince's Letters than was neceſſary, becauſe I confeſs I was willing the World ſhould ſee how long the Correſpondence had been betwixt the Prince and my ſelf; and how great Teſtimonials he had given of my conſtant Adherence to his Service, as alſo to that of my Country, in all the Tranſactions which had related either to the Peace or to the War with *France*: But I do more particularly deſire, That mine to his Highneſs of the 9th of *February* 167½. may be obſerved, as alſo his Highneſſes of the 25th of the ſame *February*, in Anſwer to mine of the 9th; both which were deſired to be burnt both by the Prince and me; becauſe his Highneſs would not venture to have his known to the States, for Fear of diſpleaſing them; and I durſt not let mine be known to the King

King my Maſter, for Fear of his Diſpleaſure: By which appears the higheſt Degree of Perſonal Truſt betwixt the Prince and my ſelf.

MINE alſo of the 16th of *April* 1678. and the Prince's Anſwer to it, which is dated the 3d of *May* 1678. will ſhew both the Prince's Opinion and mine at that Time, That the King of *France* was more beholding to the Parliament of *England*, and the States of *Holland*, for his Succeſſes, than he was to his own Arms: And as the Prince deſires, That his of the 25th of *February* may be burnt, for Fear of diſpleaſing the States; ſo in this of the 3d of *May* he ſays, That he dares not ſay more. And I deſire it may be further obſerved, That mine of the 9th of *February*, which I deſired might be burnt (for Fear as aforeſaid), was but Six Weeks before my Letter of the 25th of *March*, on which I was accuſed; and mine of the 16th of *April* was not Five Weeks after the ſaid Letter of 25th of *March*, which juſtifies the Difference betwixt what I writ by the King's Command, directed under his own Hand, and what my own Senſe of Things was at the ſame Time. But the malicious Author (who calls himſelf Impartial) hath in this, as he doth in moſt Things through his whole Hiſtory, relate

whatever he thinks may reflect upon the Reputation of any Body whose Actions he would blemish (not sparing King *Charles* the Second himself, even against the best Actions of his Life), and magnifying the Honesty and Actions of some Men, who were active in the greatest Villanies in that Reign; and for which their Guilt made them fly their Country, and end their Days out of it.

AN Instance of this appears by his Quotation in that History, wherein he relates only so much of my Letter of the 25th of *March* 1678. as he thinks may have an ill Construction; but leaves out the latter End of the said Letter, wherein I desire Mr. *Mountagu* to assure them in *France*, That he believes this will be the last Time that he shall receive any Propositions of a Peace, as I tell him I believe it will; so that he may take his own Measures, as well as the King's, upon it. But the Impartial Author was afraid that this Conclusion might qualify something of the former Part of the Letter against me, against whom he is enclined to vent so much Malice, (altho' I thank God, I do not know him) that rather than not shew his Spleen, he does not only relate an egregious Lye about Sir *Charles Dunqomb*'s being saved by my Vote, when he was accused

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in Parliament; but tells what was impoſſible to be true, if I had been his beſt Friend in that Houſe: For as he was diſcharged but by one Vote, ſo it was equally every Man's Vote who voted on his Side, and is impoſſible to be any more one Lord's Vote than another, no Majority being known till the whole Houſe hath been counted; and as I then heard, Sir *Charles* prevailed with the old Biſhop of *Glouceſter*, who was going out of the Houſe, to go in again, which, if true, helped him to that Majority of one Vote; and can yet be no more ſaid to be carried by the Biſhop's Vote, than by any Lord of the Houſe, who voted on the ſame Side: So that it looks as if that Author loved Lying for Lying ſake; and therefore I hope he is not a Divine, as ſome report him to be.

I MUST alſo deſire, That particular Notice may be taken of the Prince's Letter of the 13th of *January* 167$\frac{3}{4}$. upon the Occaſion of my Impeachment; wherein he declares his Opinion concerning me, and that of all the Accuſations the Parliament could have laid againſt me, that of being in the Intereſt of *France* had ſo little Appearance of Truth, that all thoſe who knew me, did ſufficiently know the contrary, if they would ſpeak the Truth; but ſays, That I

am ſubject to what all honeſt Men ſometimes are, in being wrongfully accuſed: And concludes that Letter, That notwithſtanding all this, he remains without Reſerve entirely my Friend; and as, Sir *William Temple* does often ſay of his Highneſs, he was a Man of Sincerity, and not Compliment.

Sir

Sir *William Temple's* LETTERS TO THE Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, April 23. 1676.

My Lord,

I COULD not omit the kiſſing your Lordſhips Hands upon my Wife's going over, being glad of any Occaſion to preſerve my ſelf in your Lordſhips Memory and Favour, which I muſt ever eſteem among my beſt Poſſeſſions: Yet I know 'tis idle in me to trouble your Lordſhip at this Time from a Place ſo barren as this now is, and by a Hand that will entertain you of any Thing that can be worth your Lordſhips knowing from hence, tho'

that amounts to no more at preſent than a Commiſſion, which ſhe carries over with her from a much better Hand than mine, and from whom ſhe has it in Charge to entertain no Perſon but your Lordſhip upon it, the Privacy of it being very much recommended to her. I ſhall ſay nothing more of that or any Thing elſe that may encreaſe your Lordſhips Trouble unneceſſarily, and thereby leſſen the Reaſon I am ſure you have to believe me as much as any Man alive,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips Faithful, and

moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. Temple.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Nimeguen, Nov. 6. 1676.

My Lord,

I FIND by my Wife's Diſcourſes, as well as by many other more material Teſtimonies, how infinitely I am oblig'd to your Lordſhips Favour in all that concerns me. The leſs I can pretend to deſerve it, the more Reaſon I have to acknowledge it. And ſince your Lordſhips Care of me alone preſerves me from a certain Ruin, to which a Man in my Condition would be otherwiſe expoſed by theſe Employments; I may ſay with a great deal of Juſtice and Truth, That I never receiv'd any where ſo much Kindneſs, nor ever owed any where ſo much Service; nor could I ever be more pleas'd than with the Payment of it upon all Occaſions. I hope my Son will help me in making theſe Returns, who having the Advantage of being young, may live to acquit ſome Part of ſo great a Debt; at leaſt I am content he ſhould endeavour it, by ſo early devoting himſelf to your Lordſhips Service, as I find he is inclined of himſelf to do; and ſo entirely, as, for ought I ſee, he will exclude all his other Friends from pretending any Right or Share

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in him. I wiſh your Lordſhip would make that Uſe of him as to convey any of your Commands to me by his Hand, which might be done that Way without your Trouble; and methinks in a Place that furniſhes ſo many Things to all Parts of the World, there ſhould be ſomething at one Time or other that your Lordſhip had a Mind to, in which I am ſure you ſhould have a good Factor of me, whether the King has a good Ambaſſador or no.

I do not trouble your Lordſhip with unneceſſary Accounts of Buſineſs from hence, knowing very well you have your Share of the long and frequent Troubles we are forc'd to ſend over by our Diſpatches to the Secretary of State, and of thoſe particular Accounts I ſometimes give his Majeſty himſelf, of what either concerns the Prince of *Orange*, or I judge not fit to fall into our common Letters. That of this Ordinary having fallen to my Share, and being very long, I am to ask your Lordſhips Pardon for that Trouble as well as this, which I cannot end without the ſincere Profeſſions of that conſtant Paſſion and unfeigned Truth, wherewith have, and ſhall be ever,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful,

and moſt Humble Servant.

Wm. TEMPLE.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Nimmeguen, June 25. 1677.

My Lord,

IF I pretended to make your Lordſhip the Acknowledgements I owe for the Honour and Kindneſſes of your laſt Letter, this I am ſure would be made up of nothing elſe; and therefore I have aſſur'd your Lordſhip, that no Man could be more oblig'd than I was by it, nor more ſenſible than I was upon it. I had a Letter this laſt Week from the Prince, wherein he was pleas'd to give me ſome Account of Mr. *Bentinck*'s Journey and Return extreamly to his Highneſſes Satisfaction, as to all that paſs'd from his Majeſty upon that Occaſion; and as to your Lordſhips Part, he ſays theſe Words, (* *Je l'avois particulierement addreſſé a Monſieur le Grand Treſorier qui en a uſé d'une maniere ſi obligeante & luy a parlé avec tant de franchiſe que je ne puis m'en aſſez louer.*) If he can ſucceed in the Deſires I know he has, of making a Journey into *England* when the Campaign Ends, I believe

* I recommended him particularly to my Lord Treaſurer, who entertain'd him in ſo obliging a Manner, and diſcourſed him with ſo much Freedom, that I want Words to expreſs my Satisfaction with it.

lieve ſo much of his Inclination to a Peace, which may in any Kind ſave his Honour, that I am confident the King and his Highneſs, if they meet, will take their Meaſures together upon that Matter, and upon the future Conduct of both their Affairs.

I ASK your Lordſhips Pardon for ſo long a Trouble, which yet muſt not end without the Repetition of all the moſt ſenſible Acknowledgements that can be made your Lordſhip for ſo much Favour as has obliged me to be for ever, and with as much Reaſon as Paſſion,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful,

and moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. TEMPLE.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, July 25. 1678.

My Lord,

THO' the other Letter be of a ſtaler Date, yet upon Peruſal again I found ſome Things in it that might yet be proper enough for your Lordſhip to know, and ſo I am content to let it go. I ſhall only here give your Lordſhip Joy of this great Negotiation atchiev'd here under your Lordſhips Miniſtry, which is by all on this Side eſteem'd a much greater than another, upon which I have known ſome former Miniſters in *England* value themſelves very much, tho' not very long. That, which may poſſibly make this the more acceptable to his Majeſty, is the Evidence of ſo much Art and Induſtry, with which the *French* have of late uſed all the Practices imaginable to gain this State; upon the Belief whereof, I doubt they have not of late conſider'd us the more, or uſed us the better; for I do not find that the *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimmeguen* took any Notice of Sir *Lionel Jenkins* in the Delivery of their late Memorial there, or that he came to be poſſeſs'd of it otherwiſe than from the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors. And ſince I came over, Monſieur

Eſtrades

Eſtrades has written ſeveral Letters to the Towns of *Amſterdam*, *Rotterdam*, *Dort* and *Leyden*, to perſuade them that the Prince of *Orange* and his Friends will have no Peace; and the Penſioner has ſurprized an Original Letter from Mr. *Louvoy* to Mr. *Eſtrades*, by which he bids them tell thoſe of his Correſpondents in *Holland*, from whence the laſt Advices came, That in caſe they gave him no better, he would certainly ſtop their Penſions. The beſt on't is, the Sore ſeems to be broken, and to have run out, ſo as to leave the Body more healthful than before: And if God bleſs the Prince in this one Enterpriſe of *Mons*, he will be greater here than ever his Anceſtors were. I ſuppoſe one good Fruit more may ariſe from this Affair, which is, That I do not believe any Man who ſees the Courſe of my Diſpatches, can believe there is any more Tricks in the Buſineſs; nor do I ſee why Men ſhould be ſick any longer of that imaginary Diſeaſe in *England*, after they are cured here: And if the Cure ſhould be wrought at a Time in both Places, the World is ſafe, let Peace or War go on; if not, it may be loſt ſtill, and I know not whether I ſhall have Charity enough to pray God forgive them that prove the Occaſion of it. How all this is receiv'd in Court or Country, I ſhould be very glad to know from your Lordſhip; for after all

the

the Compliments made me here upon it, I am from thence to judge what I may have deſerved by the infinite perpetual Trouble and Application it has forc'd me upon ſince I came over. I ſend your Lordſhip a Copy encloſed, of my Diſpatch this Day to Mr. Secretary, which Mr. *Meredith* reſolves to put firſt into your Lordſhips Hand. What other Obſervances you can receive from him, I am ſure will be render'd your Lordſhip there and here upon this and all other Occaſions, ſince he can have learn'd nothing elſe in the Houſe of a Perſon that is, and ever ſhall be, with a conſtant and equal Paſſion and Truth,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful,

and moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. TEMPLE.

To Sir William Temple.

London, August $\frac{12}{22}$. 1678.

My Lord,

MY Family has been ſo much indiſpoſed, and my ſelf alſo by the Diſorder of it, that I cannot write ſo largely to you, as otherwiſe I would do. But that Defect will be ſufficiently ſupplied by Mr. *Hyde*, who I think is fully inſtructed to ſatisfy both you and the States themſelves of his Majeſties Firmneſs to them and their Intereſt, if they deſert not themſelves; for the King and his whole Council are unanimous in their Opinion, That the King of *France* has not performed his Offers at *Nimmeguen* in *April*; and conſequently, that the Treaty betwixt us and *Holland* is in Force, and ought to be put in Execution, on which there will be no Failure on our Part. You will find that Mr. *Hyde* is no leſs impowered to give Satisfaction about Monſieur *du Croſs*, who was ſo far from having any ſort of Commiſſion from the King, that if the Penſioner will permit any Thing to be proved againſt him of theſe private Diſcourſes, which you ſay, in your Letter of the 16th, you had from the Penſioner,

his

his Majeſty will make him a publick Example for the Satisfaction of himſelf, as well as the reſt of the World. On Purſuance of theſe Reſolutions, his Majeſty has deſigned more Troops ſtill to go over, inſtead of recalling any which are order'd to join the Prince of *Orange* in caſe he receive Encouragement to it from the States; but otherwiſe he will call back all he has there, and not engage himſelf in a War, only to make a baſe and unſafe Peace for *Holland*, and either none at all, or a ruinous One for *Spain*. As to the Two Reſolutions, which in the End of yours of the 16th, you ſay, you think the King muſt come to, *viz.* The Meaſures with the Prince, and the Neutrality of *Cleves*, you will find them fully complied with: And as Mr. *Hyde* is fully inſtructed to the latter, ſo I can aſſure you of the former, and have Commiſſion to give that Aſſurance to the Prince of *Orange*.

I HAVE forborn ſaying any Thing of thoſe Things you have deſired me concerning your ſelf, believing you will be in better Humour; and knowing by my own Experience, that we muſt bear with a great many wrong Paces, to prevent worſe which would follow to his Majeſty in the Hands of ſuch as would purſue their own Humours, and ſeek their Eaſe at any Hazard

of our Master, or his Concerns. His Majesty does extreamly wonder, that he had not yet received any Account of the Particulars upon which the Treaty is signed betwixt *France* and *Holland*, nor what sort of Declaration the *French* King has made for Evacuating the Towns. I am, &c.

DANBY.

To the Lord Treasurer.

Hague, September 2. 1678. *N. S.*

My Lord,

I INTENDED not your Lordship any Trouble by this Post, after so long ones by the two last; but could not fail giving a Cover to the Enclosed, which was sent me from the Prince, who will, I doubt not, himself have given your Lordship an Account of the State of this Country, in Answer to what you say of the *French* thinking themselves secure of them. The Prince said to me upon it, That he thought them less so, than they have been any Time this Eight Months past; and this is not the first nor second Time I have observed them to play their Game in *England*, by saying, They are secure of the *Dutch*; and in *Holland*, by saying, They are secure of us.

THERE

THERE was not one Town in all the Provinces that ſtuck to *Amſterdam*, when Mr. *Valkeneer* upon *Wedneſday* (when the Reſolution was reſumed of not Ratifying without *Spain*) would fain have ſpoiled it, by offering ſome new Temper in it, and his Highneſs does not doubt of the States being firm in that Reſolution. I am ever with the greateſt Paſſion and Truth,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and Humble Servant,

Wm. Temple.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, October 28. 1678.

My Lord,

BY my Letter this Ordinary to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*, your Lordſhip will ſee plainly the Meaſures that *France* has reſolved to take here upon the Peace, both to the Prince and the States: Their Court to one, and Neglect to the other, and withal the Manner this State hitherto receives it, and reſolves to live with his Majeſty upon theſe Occaſions.

THE *French* Ambaſſador is very buſy in his Intrigues with ſeveral of the great Towns, eſpecially with that of *Amſterdam*; but I do not yet find he gains any farther Ground than what I always reckoned upon, and acquainted your Lordſhip with, in my former Letters concerning Monſieur *Valkeneer*, and the Part he had taken to act in that Town oppoſite to the Prince, and the other Towns of this Province: But on the contrary, theſe Paces of *France* ſince the Peace delaying the Evacuating *Maeſtricht*, demanding *Haſſels*, and the other Places of *Liege* (that may in a manner block up that Place), ſeizing *Aeth* and the Dutchy of *Juliers*, threatning that of *Cleves*, *Cologne*, and other

other Places upon the *Lower Rhine*, give the other Provinces and the Towns this Occaſion to ſpeak very hard of *Amſterdam*, for preſſing the Peace ſo violently, and without Regard either to the Honour of their Treaties, or the Safety of their Frontiers; ſo as I believe the ill Talent of the other Towns of this Province, againſt the preſent Governor of the Affairs in *Amſterdam*, will break out upon the firſt Occaſion, and very poſſibly next Seſſion of the States of *Holland*, upon Propoſal of his Majeſties Guarantee and this States to be given to the *Spaniſh* Peace, if the Town of *Amſterdam* ſhould at all oppoſe it.

I THOUGHT it not amiſs to put your Lordſhip in mind, whether for Satisfaction of the Houſe of Commons when it meets (if it be neceſſary) in Point of the Peace, and all Tranſactions on this Side ſince laſt Seſſion, it might be fit for Mr. *Secretary*, as in Confidence to ſome of the leading Members, to communicate ſeveral of Mr. *Hyde*'s Diſpatches, and mine: By which it will appear ſo plainly, how far his Majeſty would have entred into the War; How impoſſible it was to engage this State in continuing it, if *France* accompliſh'd the Term they had accepted of the Peace; How *France* ſtill purſues the Deſign of being at length Maſter of this Country as well as *Flanders*, by invading the *Lower Rhine*, the

Towns whereof are the very Keys of theſe Provinces; And how they attend only his Majeſties and theſe States being diſarmed, to give them the Opportunity of accompliſhing it, by the Weakneſs of *Spain*, and the Factions they hope to raiſe here. All which are Points Mr. *Hyde* very perfectly comprehends, and may, I ſuppoſe, be of great Uſe in giving the Houſe himſelf an Account of upon Occaſion, beſides what may be given (if ſo thought fit) by any private Communication of our Diſpatches. I beg your Lordſhips Pardon for this Interruption, and your Belief of my being ever, with equal Paſſion and Truth,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. TEMPLE.

To Sir William Temple.

London, November 19. 1678.

My Lord,

WE have not only our Hands over-loaded with Buſineſs; but with ſuch Buſineſs, as we can neither gueſs the Event of, nor foreſee when it will end. I know you are enough filled with the general News of Plots and Contrivances, both againſt the Kings Perſon, and to ſubvert our Religion and Government: But we are yet ſo unhappy as not to have Evidences ſo convincing, as I hope they will be when the Conſpirators have come to their Trials. In the mean Time, there ariſes Debates of very different Natures, and ſometimes Heats upon them; and ſuch a one particularly Yeſterday (in the Houſe of Commons) as ended in the Commitment of Sir *Joſeph Williamſon* to the *Tower*. His Majeſty has this Day ſpoke to the Houſe of Commons upon that Matter, and did at the ſame Time order Mr. Secretaries Releaſe; which has begot an Addreſs from that Houſe to the King, ſhewing the Reaſon of their committing him, and deſiring his Majeſty would pleaſe to continue his Commitment. But the Se-

cretary is at Liberty, and how the Matter will reſt, or be taken up again, to Morrow will ſhew. The chief Aim ſeems to be againſt the Duke, but is attended with Deſigns alſo againſt leſſer Ones (as my ſelf, and others of the Cabinet); and truly it is the Opinion of very many, that thoſe Deſigns are rather purſued under the Cover of the Plot, than the Plot it ſelf. Amidſt theſe Diſorders (and which are more likely to encreaſe than otherwiſe) we have an Army and Fleet on our Hands, without any Proviſion either to continue or diſband them; and for thoſe Troops Abroad, they muſt either ſtarve, or be recalled immediately: And yet the Commons will not endure to hear of this, or any other Concern, 'till they have further Satisfaction in the Matter of the Plot.

WHAT the Conſequences of theſe Things will be Abroad, we have not Time to think, nor almoſt of what we ſhould do at Home; but becauſe I could not ſatisfy my ſelf to be any longer ſilent, I was reſolved to acquaint you with the preſent State of our Affairs. I was in hopes to have ſeen you in the Houſe by this Time, to have had the Help of ſuch an able Phyſician in ſo deſperate a Diſtemper; but we are like to be deprived of that alſo, by the Ingratitude of a Corporation to his Majeſty, and the ill

Practices

Practices of Mr. *Mountagu* to debauch them, ſince his coming to the Houſe. I have heard more of his ill Practices of other Kinds, and ſome of them particularly againſt your ſelf, which I am hunting as well as I can, to find out: And I hear, that Mr. *Olivecrans* can tell us ſome Things, if he pleaſes, of Mr. *Mountagu*, which would both ſpoil his Plots, and his Seat in Parliament; and which you would do well to inform your ſelf of, if you meet with a fit Occaſion. I write this in ſuch an Hurry, that you muſt forgive the Faults of it; but before I end, I beg to know whether at laſt you believe the Peace will be concluded to the States ſatisfaction, or not. I am

Yours, &c.

DANBY.

To Sir William Temple.

London, 22 *November* 1678.

My Lord,

I AM to acknowledge the Favour of your Excellencies Letter of the 5th Instant, and to let you know, That I shewed it immediately to his Majesty, who is thereby made very desirous of getting all the Information he can possibly, of what is yet but darkly hinted by Mr. *Olivecrans*. You say, He made to you a List of several Persons designed for great Offices, *&c.* But 'tis not plain, whether that was a List he had lately from *England*, or some other List he knows of, because he said he was sure the Design was not only against his Majesty and Kingdom, but against all other Protestant Princes and States; and the Designs of the Papists against the Protestant Religion in *England* had been long a brewing. As to what concerns Mr. *Mountagu*, I perceive his Majesty knows nothing of his Conferences with the Pope's Nuncio: And for what Mr. *Olivecrans* supposes might have been the Occasion of those Conferences, *viz.* A Treaty of Marriage betwixt the King of *Spain* and the Duke of *Orleans*'s Daughter; His Majesty says, He never entred into any such

ſuch Treaty, nor ever gave Mr. *Mountagu* any Inſtructions about it. You ſay alſo in your Letter, That in Twelve or Fifteen Days Mr. *Olivecrans* would probably be able, both to tell the Time of thoſe Conferences more preciſely, and perhaps ſomething more of the Deſign againſt our Religion in *England*; which gives us great Impatience till we hear again from you of that Matter.

If you ſhall judge it neceſſary for me to write to Mr. *Olivecrans*, to encourage him in this Buſineſs, I have the King's Command to do it. And in the mean time, his Majeſty would have you to tell him, how acceptable a Service his Majeſty ſhall eſteem it, if he can diſcloſe any of thoſe Practices which he has too much Reaſon to fear have been deſigned both againſt himſelf, and Proteſtant Religion; and of which, he hopes to make a more ample Diſcovery by Mr. *Olivecrans* Aſſiſtance, and your Care. I am, *&c.*

DANBY.

P. S. What Mr. *Olivecrans* ſhall tell you farther of this Matter, his Majeſty would have you ſend by Expreſs.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, December 6. 1678.

My Lord,

I WAS ſo infinitely obliged by the Kindneſs and Confidence of a Letter I had this Day the Honour of receiving from your Lordſhip by Mr. *Hales*, that I could not delay the acknowledging it by this Poſt; tho' to do that as I ought, will, I doubt, be as hard as to deſerve it: And beſides, I fear to interrupt your Lordſhip at a Time ſo buſie as this, will be a greater Fault than any Omiſſion could have been. I had not before any true Proſpect of your preſent Scene; and tho' your Lordſhip has given me ſo much Light, yet it ſerves rather to repreſent the Sadneſs of it, than to diſcover any Hopes of Remedy to ſuch fatal Diſtempers as have been long breeding, and are now ſo violently broken out in our poor unfortunate Nation. God alone can be the Phyſician, who governs the Hearts of Princes, and the Humours of People; for to think of Advice from any other in ſo many croſs Accidents both at Home and Abroad, as meet to make up this violent *Criſis*, is too great a Compliment to put upon any Man: And if your Lord-

Lordſhip could hope for it, in my Opinion it ought to be from your ſelf, who have the beſt been able to obſerve the Spring and Growth of this Diſtemper, with the Diſpoſitions of the Body; and by that, as well as your own Natural Prudence, muſt be fitter than any Body to make a Judgment upon it. For my own Part, it would be more Preſumption in me than in any Man, to offer at it, upon many other Regards beſides that of the Diſtance I am at, and have been ſo long and ſo often for a great Part of my Life: Nor do I know one Quality to make me fit for it, unleſs it be not only as near and ſenſible, but as unpaſſioned and uninterrupted a Concernment in the true Good and Service of my Maſter and my Country as any Man can have.

FOR Mr. *Mountagu*, I have neither deſerv'd ſuch ill Offices as he has done me, nor ſhall I trouble my ſelf about making him ſuch Returns. For what he has done to your Lordſhip, I ſhall not eaſily forgive, becauſe I do not think you have deſerved it upon any Publick Conſiderations, which are all that ſhould lead him in his preſent Figure: For if your Lordſhip has not ſerved his Majeſty and the true Intereſts of his Crowns with perfect good Intentions to both, and to the beſt of your Power, you have, I am ſure, deceiv'd me, which few

of

of my Friends, I confeſs, have done, and I am confident, your Lordſhip will never be of the Number. I beg your Pardon for this Interruption, which had not been, if I were with leſs Truth and Paſſion than I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. TEMPLE.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Jan. 23. 167⅞. *N. S.*

My Lord,

THOUGH I know very well your Lordſhip is too buſie to be troubled with empty Letters, and there paſſes nothing of Importance to fill one from hence; yet upon the Part your Lordſhips Name had in the laſt News-Papers and Journals from *England*, I cannot forbear giving you this Trouble, tho' it be only to aſſure your Lordſhip how great a Senſe I have of whatever touches you in any Kind, and with how much Impatience I expect the good News of ſome happy Iſſue out of theſe preſent Diſtractions in *England*, wherein I ſee your Lordſhip has ſo ſenſible a Part, and the Conſequences whereof are already felt Abroad as well as at Home, and will, I fear, be more ſo every Day. I can aſſure your Lordſhip, all Men I meet with here lament our Misfortunes at this Time, as a Concern of their own, and ſo they Eſteem it, conſidering the Condition of this Country and of *Flanders*, without a Support from *England*, and the Peace of *Germany*, to be fallen into much worſe Terms already upon the late ill Poſture of our Affairs

fairs in *England*. Your Lordſhip will find the Prince's Senſe of it in the Incloſ'd, from himſelf; I am ſure, what both his Highneſs and the States expreſs of it upon all Occaſions, is very great, and particularly of what concerns your Lordſhip: But I keep you from being ſo much better entertain'd, that I ſhall do it no longer, nor encreaſe this preſent Trouble beyond the Aſſurance of my being ever with equal Paſſion and Truth,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. TEMPLE.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, 27 *Jan.* N. S. 167⅞.

My Lord,

I HAD the Honour of one from your Lordſhip of the 7th, and deferr'd not to make that Uſe of it here, which was indeed in a manner neceſſary for his Majeſty's Service and Juſtification, as well as your Lordſhips. I communicated the firſt Part of it to ſome of the States who are in chief Credit here, and to the *Imperial* and *Spaniſh* Miniſters, who all took Notice of thoſe Clauſes in it, which ſhew'd, how great Advantages might have been made by bargaining for any Towns, if the King had pleas'd; How no Conditions were over-propos'd, but ſuch as were approv'd by *Spain* and *Holland*; And how the Thoughts of making any Advantages of that it ſelf, were entertain'd only at the Perſwaſions of Mr. *Mountagu*. And in the greateſt Converſation I have had upon this Subject, I may aſſure your Lordſhip, it was receiv'd here with all the Succeſs you could deſire.

FOR the Prince, who was gone from *Utrecht* to *Arnheim* about the Time I receiv'd your Lordſhip's Diſpatch, I thought

there would be no Way ſo good to the performing your Commands towards his Highneſs, as by ſending him the Letter it ſelf; by which he would beſt ſee how much you were concern'd, both in his good Opinion, and in his particular Affair of the Money due to him, which, I am ſure, could not have been by me ſo well expreſs'd as in your Lordſhips own Words. You will before this Time have been fully ſatisfy'd, by the Letter I lately ſent you encloſed, how much the Prince was concern'd in your Part of what lately happened in *England*, and how little Reaſon you had to apprehend any Change of his Highneſs's Opinion in what concern'd your Lordſhip upon that Occaſion, and I know very well he writ that Letter with a kinder Intention, than only making you a Compliment at that Time.

FOR the Money, he never ſaid one Word of it to me in ſeveral Converſations about theſe Affairs, further than complaining of his own ill Luck, ſince he was ſure to have receiv'd it within four or five Days at the Time when that Trouble was given your Lordſhip there, which he reckoned upon as what muſt certainly delay it till ſome better Settlement in his Majeſty's Affairs, and eſpecially that of the Revenue.

HAVING acquitted my ſelf of the Duty I ow'd your Lordſhip upon the firſt

Part

Part of your Letter, I find another I owe to his Majeſty upon the latter, of which I deſpair of being able to acquit my ſelf as I ought to do; and therefore muſt beg of your Lordſhip to aſſiſt me in making the humbleſt Acknowledgments to his Majeſty, that a Servant can make to the beſt Maſter in the World: But I am very ſorry I muſt make ſo true and plain a Confeſſion of my ſelf, as I am forced to do upon this Occaſion. If I found my ſelf capable of doing his Majeſty that Service that would become me in the Poſt of a Secretary of State, I ſhould eſteem it the greateſt Happineſs that could befal me in the poor Remainder of my Life; but the ſenſible Decays I feel of late in my ſelf, and which muſt encreaſe every Day with my Age and ill Health, makes me abſolutely deſpair of acquitting my ſelf as I ought to do in ſuch a Station.

I BEG your Lordſhip to repreſent this to his Majeſty, not as any affected Modeſty, nor as a Speaker's Form of diſabling himſelf when he is choſen; for your Lordſhip may remember heretofore, and Mr. *Hyde* knows very well the Thoughts of this Kind he both found and left me in at his laſt being here: Beſides, my bad State of Health makes me hope, that his Majeſty will give me Leave to ſeek to mend it in ſome better Climate, and eſpecially ſince your Lord-

ſhip ſeems to think of retiring your ſelf, upon whoſe Aſſiſtance I ſhould principally have relyed.

IN the mean Time, I cannot end this without making your Lordſhip likewiſe my particular Acknowledgments for your Favour and good Opinion, which I ſhall ever eſteem amongſt my beſt Poſſeſſions. But having had the Honour of agreeing ſo often with you in moſt Things relating to the Publick, I cannot but be confident, that if you knew me as well as I do my ſelf, you would be perfectly of my Mind in what I have ſaid concerning my ſelf; and I cannot deny but I ſhould be of yours, were you not an Inſtrument of ſo much greater Uſe to the Publick than I could be.

THAT which I hope we both agree in is, That you can never meet with a greater and more ſincere Paſſion, than that wherewith I have been ſo long, and ſhall be,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant,

Wm. Temple.

To

To my Lord Treasurer.

Hague, February 21. N. S. 1679.

My Lord,

HAVING since my last had several Occasions of discoursing with the Prince upon the Subject of your Lordships last Letter, and the Account you were pleased to give there, both of his Majesty's Conduct and your own, in those Negotiations which were so much talked on of late: His Highness was very full in his Expressions of justifying your Lordship, upon having done nothing but with his Majesty's Order even in Writing, and could not talk of Mr. *Montagu's* Part in it, without the greatest Indignation in the World. For the Thing it self, he would say little, but that it was past, and so 'twas to no Purpose to talk of it. That no Body had any Thing left to do since the Peace, but to play an ill Game the best they could, and so he resolv'd to do here:

But nothing he could now do would ſignifie much towards the Common Safety, unleſs *England* could grow into a Poſture of being more united at Home, and more conſidered Abroad, than they ſeemed likely to be by the preſent Courſe of our Affairs, which he ever talks of with great Concernment. Since the Commiſſion I receiv'd to go again to *Nimmeguen*, to continue there the Figure of his Majeſty's Mediation, upon the recalling of Sir *Lyonel Jenkins*, he was very inquiſitive into the Reaſon of it, which I could not give him; having received barely a Commiſſion to act alone in that Function, and Three Lines only from Mr. *Secretary Williamſon*, to tell me, he had ſent it by his Majeſty's Order. All we could gueſs, was the Deſign of ſparing ſo much Money, by ending Mr. *Hyde's* and Sir *Lyonel's* Embaſſy, now the Peace was ſo near concluded; and continuing mine only for the Decency of the Mediation, till the Aſſembly ſhould break up. And the Prince ſaid upon it, That he hoped however, the King might make ſome good uſe of it, and ſince the Peace of the *North* would certainly be made, now the Emperor's was ſo, he thought it would be very much better that his Majeſty ſhould make it than *France*, eſpecially that between *Brandenburg* and *Sweden*; and there-

by

by endeavour to draw ſome Dependance of thoſe Two Princes upon himſelf after the Peace, which he doubted would otherwiſe fall on *France*. He ſaid beſides, That he would think of this Matter within Two or Three Days, and tell me, if not write into *England*, what ſhould occur to him upon it before I went to *Nimmeguen*. And that the ſooner the Peace of the *North* was now made, the better: That *France* might thereby have no longer a Pretext of keeping the Seven Towns in *Cologne*, *Juliers* and *Liege*; whereby they are poſted ſo, as to awe this Country and *Flanders*, and to be ready for any new Deſign upon them.

IN this Conference, and one before, his Highneſs deſired me to write to your Lordſhip, and put you in mind of his Money; concerning which, you had expreſs'd ſo great Concernment in your Laſt to me. His Highneſs ſaid, He did not doubt but this Sum might be eaſily advanc'd upon that Act which provided for it, in caſe the whole Security were not engaged ſome other Ways, which he hop'd your Lordſhip has had the Kindneſs and Juſtice to prevent.

IN the midſt of your Lordſhips great Affairs, I know very well I ought to give you as few and as ſhort Troubles as I can; and therefore ſhall not lengthen this beyond the Aſſurances of my being over,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful,

and moſt Humble Servant,

WM. TEMPLE.

To Sir William Temple.

London, 11 *February* 167[illegible].

My Lord,

YOU will by this Post receive Orders from his Majesty, by my Lord *Sunderland*, to come over instead of Sir *Lyonel Jenkins*; and that you may know the true Cause of it (which you will not receive from my Lord *Sunderland*), I had this Day an Assurance by my Cousin your Son, from my Lady *Temple*, and afterwards from her Ladiship, that Sir *Joseph Williamson* being remov'd, thereby the chief Obstacle was taken away, which made you unwilling to undertake the Secretary's Place with such a Partner as might not concur as you desir'd to the King's Service. Upon this Encouragement, I resolved to lose no Time of Tryal, how far his Majesty had fixed his Resolutions about Sir *Lyonel*, and finding him still willing to prefer you before him, I desir'd that Sir *Lyonel*'s Order for coming over might be stop'd by this Post, and the same Directions sent to your self which was given him before, *viz.* To come over as soon as may be to his Majesty; and that not as a Revocation (which may be better done after you are here), but as a

Journey

Journey in Obedience to his Majesty's Commands.

THE Inclosed to the Prince, was design'd (at my Lord *Sunderland*'s Request) to have recommended him to his Highness, who gives me very great Assurance of his Readiness to serve him. But this Change has happen'd since, which I am confident will please the Prince, as well as it does me; and therefore I could not but communicate it to his Highness, altho' it will be necessary to keep it a Secret, because otherwise it may receive a Prejudice you shall know hereafter: And at this Instant I dare answer, that none in *England* know or think of it but your Lady, my Lord *Sunderland*, your Son and my self. I have made my Head ache so much with the many Letters I have writ this Day, that I can say no more to you at this Time, nor do I know whether it be Sense that I have writ; but I know you will easily excuse the Faults of

My Lord, &c.

DANBY.

I DURST use no Hand but this to transcribe my Letter, and I was not able to do it my self.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, February 28. 167½. N. S.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED laſt *Saturday* the Honour of one from your Lordſhip of the 11th, which I confeſs ſurprized me more than any I ever receiv'd from you, coming not only after my Orders and Preparations for *Nimeguen*, but after my Wife had told me from your Lordſhip, how all that Affair had play'd; and after I had written to her, how infinitely ſenſible I was of the Obligations I had to your Lordſhip in the whole Courſe of it, and how perfectly I was ſatisfied as to my ſelf with the Plie it had taken. Time alone muſt tell, if either his Majeſty or I have Reaſon to be ſatisfied with the Change you have made in that Meaſure, which will depend upon the Succeſs of it towards theſe publick Ends I am confident your Lordſhip aims at in it, and which none can anſwer for. I wiſh to God I could deſerve half the Honour your Lordſhip does me by your good Opinion, for I never can the Kindneſs of your Intention (whatever may come of it), tho' no Man can be more ſenſible than I am of it. For the reſt, I ſhall not trouble your Lordſhip

ſhip further with any Diſcourſes upon that Subject, being like to have the Honour of waiting on you ſo ſoon, for I hope, God willing, to go aboard the Yatch to Morrow or next Day, if Wind and Weather ſuffer me; and with your Lordſhips good Leave, ſhall make my firſt Step into the Cockpit, where your Lordſhip will there find, I am ſure,

Moſt Faithful, and

Humble Servant,

WM. PENN.

PARTCULAR

REMARKS

On ſome of

Sir *William Temple's*

LETTERS.

VIZ.

APRIL 23. 1676. His Letter ſent to me by his Lady, with a Meſſage to acquaint me with the Prince of *Orange's* Inclination to propoſe a Match for himſelf to the Lady *Mary*, and to deſire my Anſwer to her Ladiſhip to divers Queſtions, which ſhe was inſtructed to enquire of me in order to that Match. And this was the firſt Motion in that Affair, and according to the Charge of Secrecy mention'd in that Letter, it was never communicated to any other Perſon: Nor did the King know any

of

of the Prince's Thoughts of that Matter till *May* 1677, when I firſt try'd how the King would approve of ſuch a Propoſal; and it was at leaſt Two Months after that before I had any Hopes of his Majeſty's Allowance of any Treaty about it.

November 6. 1676. Shews Sir *William Temple*'s ſincere Friendſhip to me, and with the greateſt Acknowledgements of his Obligations to me.

July 25. 1678. He wiſhes me Joy of the Treaty then concluded by him betwixt *England* and *Holland* under my Miniſtry; by which, as well as by moſt of his Letters, I have his Teſtimony that I was far from being in any *French* Intereſt.

Auguſt 11. 1678. Mine ſhewing the King's Firmneſs to the laſt Treaty with the States, and his Majeſty's Wonder that he had not been made acquainted with the Terms on which the States had made their ſeparate Peace with *France*.

Jan. 23. 167⅞. And another the 27th *Ditto*, both mentioning how the Proſecution of me in Parliament was look'd upon Abroad. And there was a Letter in that of the 23d from the Prince of *Orange*, of the 13th of the ſaid *January*, which ſhews his Opinion alſo of that

that Matter; As another of *Feb.* 21. from Sir *William Temple*, ſhews what Sentiments the Prince had of Mr. *Mountagu*'s Part in it.

IT may alſo be obſerv'd how many of our Letters agree, in bemoaning the unfortunate Steps which were then made both in *England* and *Holland*, contrary to their true Intereſts. And Sir *William Temple*, in his ſecond Memoirs, Page 332, relates, That the States did then own, that the Prince of *Orange* had made a truer Judgment than they had done of the Meaſures both with *France* and *England*. And in the ſame Memoirs, Pages 312, and 313, he gives an Account of that Anſwer I gave to himſelf, when he ask'd me my Opinion about the Offers that were then ſent to me by Mr. *Mountagu*, both about Money, and the Terms which were then propoſed from *France*; and ſays, my Anſwer to him was, That I thought it was the ſame Thing as if it ſhould be propoſed to the King to have *Windſor* put into the *French* Hands, and that I ſhould treat it ſo. And at the End of the ſaid Memoirs, Pages 389, 390, 391, and 392. He (who knew all the Paſſages at that Time) gives an Account who were the chief Managers and at the Head of all the Deſigns againſt me, *viz.* The Dutcheſs of *Portſmouth*, the Earls of *Eſſex* and *Shaftſbury*,

bury, who were joined with the Duke of *Monmouth* in the Deligns of my Ruin; and it is obſervable what Misfortunes befel Three of them (even whilſt I was a Priſoner), and the *French* Lady not long after, who would never forgive me, becauſe ſhe thought me to be the ſole Cauſe of obſtructing her Penſion from *France*, when I was at the ſame Time accuſed for being the Promoter of it.

Lord Sunderland's *Letters.*

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Aug. 1. 1678.

My Lord,

THE Courier your Lordſhip diſpatch'd from *London* the 28th of *July*, arrived here on *Wedneſday* Morning: The ſame Day I went to St. *Germains*, where I repreſented to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, How impoſſible it was for the King my Maſter to accept of any Expedient for the Peace, without the abſolute Reſtitution of the Towns ſo long in Queſtion: That he thought what he offered more effectual for the Satisfaction of *Sweden*, than the Propoſitions of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and therefore he could not Doubt but it would have the Succeſs he deſired: That he was ty'd up to a certain Time for his final Reſolution, and therefore had ordered me obtain to a ſpeedy and poſitive Anſwer, which I did deſire his Majeſty would pleaſe to give in a Day or two. To this,

his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty anſwer'd, That he did certainly believe that the Propoſitions his Ambaſſadors had made at *Nimmeguen*, would be accepted; and that the Peace was, perhaps, now ſigned; or if any ſmall Difficulty remain'd, it might eaſily be remov'd by the King my Maſter, which he doubted not but he would do. I ſaid, I was very Confident that *Spain* and *Holland* neither could nor would conſent to any Thing leſs than the Total Reſtitution of the Towns; and that tho' the King my Maſter's Inclinations were for Peace rather than War, he muſt chuſe the Latter, if the Expedient he offered were not accepted, and that I had but a Day or two to expect his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's Reſolutions. To which I was anſwer'd, That every Moment News was expected from *Nimmeguen*, and till then it was unneceſſary to think of any Thing elſe; ſo that I came yeſterday from St. *Germains*, reſolving to have deſir'd an Audience again to Morrow, ſuppoſing Letters might by that Time be come from *Nimmeguen*, and a Laſt Reſolution taken upon them. But juſt now, being *Friday* Morning, Mr. *de Pompone* came to make me a Viſit, and told me from the Moſt Chriſtian King, That his Majeſty foreſeeing ſome Difficulties might ariſe at *Nimmeguen*, concerning the Propoſitions his Ambaſſadors were to make there, *viz.* The delivering

vering up the four Towns to *Spain*, *Ghent* to remain in the Hands of the *Dutch*, and *Maeſtricht* in his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's: He had ſent new Orders to them, * *Avec d'autres Temperaments a fin de lever toutes ſortes de Difficultées*; and that he did not doubt but the Peace would be ſuddenly concluded, if it were not already ſigned. I told him, I believ'd no † *Temperament* could prevail with *Spain* and *Holland*, but the abſolute Reſtitution of the Towns; nor that neither after a certain Time, which either was or would be ſoon expired: He ſaid again, That he thought the Peace would be made, and then his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty depended on the King my Maſter's Offers for the Satisfaction of *Sweden*, which muſt be adjuſted. This was the Subſtance of all that paſs'd, tho' a great deal more was ſaid on both Parts. I am extremely glad that the Offers of Mr. *Mountagu* were ſo well underſtood, which I doubt would ſcarce have been without your Lordſhips help; I hope you will always give it on the like Occaſion, which I queſtion not but will ſoon offer it ſelf, for he is too Unquiet and Induſtrious not to try a thouſand Ways more of compaſſing his Deſigns: And tho' you are never ſo well arm'd againſt him,

* In which Matters were ſo accommodated, as to take away all difficulties.

† Accommodation.

he will endeavour to prevail even with you; and not think it impoſſible to wheedle you to his Advantages. When I came from *London*, I had not Time to talk to your Lordſhip of a Propoſition I once told you was made to my Lady at *Chelſea*: But, my Lord, if my Lady *Briſtol* and my Wife ſay any thing of that Matter to your Lordſhip, or my Lady, I beg of you not to think it a Compliment, but to be ſure that on our Parts all ſhall be done to bring a Thing we deſire ſo much to a happy Concluſion. I am entirely, and with the greateſt Reſpect poſſible,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant,

SUNDERLAND.

To the Lord Sunderland.

$\frac{1}{11}$ *August* 1678.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY his Majeſty received News from his Ambaſſador at *Nimeguen*, That the Peace was ſigned betwixt *France* and the States; but they know not the Particulars, nor are they come yet to his Majeſties Knowledge, only he hears that the *Spaniard* has refuſed to ſign. I received your Letter of the $\frac{1}{11}$ this Day, and am commanded by his Majeſty to ſend back your Courier the ſame Day, becauſe his Majeſty will have you loſe no Time in going to his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and letting him know, That the King our Maſter hopes that his Majeſty hath ſuffered all Things to return to the ſame State they were, when his Majeſty entred with him into the Treaty of the $\frac{17}{27}$ *May*: That the King our Maſter remains of the ſame Mind in all Things he then was, and doubts not but his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty does ſo too; and conſequently, that the ſame Treaty ſhall ſubſiſt in all Points. If you ſhall meet with any Difficulty in the Confirming of that Treaty, you are to preſs it as a Matter wherein the King our Maſter has not Juſtice done in caſe it ſhall be re-

fuſed. Firſt, Becauſe the Lapſe of Time was not by his Majeſties Fault: And, Secondly, Becauſe it was in Conſideration of that Treaty, that his Majeſty conſented to ſet the States at Liberty from their Treaty with him in *January* laſt. You are farther to let his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty know, That this will be a Foundation to build thoſe other Agreements upon, which may be neceſſary for the Satisfaction of *Sweden*, and into which the King our Maſter will be then ready to enter with all the Willingneſs his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty can deſire. If his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty ſhall enquire, whether you are inſtructed to enter into Particulars about ſuch a Treaty as may be for the procuring of Satisfaction for *Sweden*; you are to anſwer, That you are not yet inſtructed as to the Particulars of that Treaty: But that in general you are to aſſure his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, That the King our Maſter is ready to do any Thing that can be reaſonably deſired therein, when he ſhall know his moſt Chriſtian Majeſties Mind upon that Matter.

I HAVE ſent you encloſed, the original Letter to the King, from the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors, and one of Mr. *Olivecrans* to me, of which his Majeſty thinks you may make good Uſe by ſhewing them to the Miniſters, by which they will be convinc'd of our Maſter's effectual Endeavours to get the *Swedes* Conſent

Conſent to the Evacuating the Towns, and conſequently of Procuring the Peace on thoſe Terms.

I had the Favour of another Letter from your Lordſhip this Day by my Lord *Plimouth*, who is as much your Lordſhips Friend as is poſſible; and I take his Friendſhip to be very valuable, becauſe I think it not eaſily to be removed. My Lady *Sunderland* gave her ſelf the Trouble of coming hither to Day, and ſpoke to me about your Lordſhips Money-Concerns, which I will take Care to give her Ladiſhip a good Account of. She was pleaſed to ſay very obliging Things to me alſo about my Son *Dunblan*, who ſhould have waited on you by this Time, but that he muſt not be abſent from the Parliament. I am with great Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips, &c.

DANBY.

To the Lord Sunderland.

London, $\frac{12}{22}$ *August* 1678.

My Lord,

ON *Saturday* I received your Lordſhips of the 17th Inſtant *N. S.* And the ſame Day his Majeſty and the Duke had Letters, both from the Prince of *Orange* and Duke of *Monmouth*, of the 16th from *St. Denis*.

YESTERDAY his Majeſty had Letters from Sir *Wm. Temple* at the *Hague*, and from Sir *Lionel Jenkins* from *Nimmeguen*; and although this be the $\frac{12}{22}$, we do not yet know the particular Conditions on which the Peace is ſigned betwixt *France* and *Holland*; only we hear, That as to *Spain*, there are now Things demanded by *France* which were not in the Project at *Nimmeguen* of *April*; and if ſo, the *French* King does not make good the Conditions then promiſed for Evacuating the Towns. We perceive alſo, That there are no Orders at all given for Hoſtilities to ceaſe; ſo that Things look as if *France* had done enough only to obſtruct the Treaty betwixt *England* and *Holland*, and yet, for ought we ſee, the Peace as far off as ever. And if, after all, we can come to no more certain Meaſures with *France*, his Majeſty will be forced to take

others,

others, how bad soever they may prove. For our Ambassadors not signing the Peace, the *French* may answer themselves; for without Evacuating the Towns, they had no Power to sign any Thing: And if any new Conditions were demanded of *Spain*, we suppose the *Spanish* Ambassadors have as little Power to sign as they; and how is it possible then the Towns should be evacuated? For my own Part, I take all this to be but a new Device to keep all the Towns but *Maestricht*; and by that, to see if they can perswade *Holland* to a Peace separate from all their Allies. And I am able to give you no other Advice, but to convince the Ministers in that Court (if you can), That they must make good the Assurances given for Evacuating the Towns, if they desire the Continuance of our Friendship. His Majesty has order'd 1000 *l.* to be return'd to my Lord *Dunbarton*, to set him at Liberty to come hither, where he will then have better Opportunity to sollicite the rest of his Business.

THE King has resolved to let his Troops be with the Prince of *Orange*, until there be either a Cessation of Arms, or an Assurance that the Towns shall be evacuated according to the Project of *Nimmeguen*; but these Things you are to keep to your self. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordships, &c.

DANBY.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Auguſt $\frac{12}{22}$ 1678.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip had always ſo ill an Opinion of any Negotiation in this Court, that you will not wonder to find that they change juſt as they think we may be uſeful to them, that being the Meaſure they go by. The Peace being now agreed betwixt this Court and the States, I ſuppoſe there will be no Occaſion for my continuing much longer here: But in the mean Time, I muſt beg Leave to tell your Lordſhip, That ſince I came hither, I am ſure I have paſſed Three quarters of my Time at *St. Germains*, or on the Way to it, and that I never was there one Minute but upon the King's Buſineſs; and that I do not think I have omitted any Thing that could have been done by one in my Place. But it is certain, that the Difficulties were made at *Nimmegen*, on Purpoſe either to obtain, by our Maſter's Help, that ſome of the Towns might have remained in the Power of *France*, or elſe to occaſion the Lapſe of Time, and ſo ſave ſo much Money; for the

Peace

Peace has without Queſtion been reſolved here a great while.

THE Court is this Day gone to *Fountainbleau:* I intend to follow in a few Days, to be more ready to obey any Orders the King ſhall pleaſe to ſend me. I am entirely, and with the greateſt Reſpect in the World,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant,

SUNDERLAND.

To

To the Lord Sunderland.

Wimbledon, $\frac{Mar.\ 26.}{Sept.\ 5.}$ 1678.

YESTERDAY when I was with the King at *Windſor*, I received your Lordſhips of the $\frac{12}{22}$ and $\frac{17}{27}$ Inſtant, with one incloſed from Mr. *de Pompone* to your Lordſhips; and as you tell me in that of the $\frac{12}{22}$, That I had always ſo bad an Opinion of that Court, that I will believe no Good can come from it; ſo I doubt not but your Lordſhip muſt be of the ſame Opinion, by the Tricks and Evaſions you meet with from them every Day.

I SHEWED both thoſe Letters to his Majeſty, as alſo one I received from you by my Lord *Dunbarton*; wherein you write the Anſwer you return'd to Mr. *de Pompone's* Letter which the King approv'd very well. In your laſt, by my Lord *Dunbarton*, your Lordſhip ſays, You ſhall not remove to *Fauntainbleau* till you have an Anſwer to that of $\frac{12}{22}$, which you had got before now if I had received any Inſtructions for it. But the Truth is, his Majeſty does now expect ſo little Reality from *France*, that he does not much buſy his Thoughts how to

tranſact

tranſact with them, being ſatisfied that if they can propoſe any Thing to us which may be for their Intereſt, they will not fail to do it themſelves: And whatever his Majeſty ſhall propoſe, they will only make uſe of (as they have done) either to procure Delays by it, or to talk of, to the creating Jealouſies betwixt us and their Enemies. For theſe Reaſons, his Majeſty commands me to let your Lordſhip know, That he will propoſe nothing, but that he would have you give the ſame good Words to the *French* King that he did you, (*viz.*) That his Majeſty is ſtill as deſirous as ever to preſerve a firm Friendſhip with his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; and that he would enter with Joy into any Thing which could procure ſo deſirable an End. That particularly his Majeſty is ready to do any Thing he can for the Satisfaction of *Sweden*, ſo ſoon as he may know what his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty does deſire of him for that End; and that he may at the ſame Time know how far his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty will comply with thoſe Demands of his, which will be ſo abſolutely neceſſary for him to have, if he expects that our King ſhould be at the Expence of giving Aſſiſtances to *Sweden*. In caſe your Lordſhip finds them diſpoſed to enter into ſuch Meaſures, his Majeſty would have you tell them, That you have Orders to tranſmit any Propoſals about

bout *Sweden* to his Majeſty; and that you dare aſſure them, you can have Powers ſent you at any Time for concluding a Treaty in Favour of *Sweden*, if they will by your Lordſhip ſend any Encouragement for the King to proceed upon it. When your Lordſhip ſays this to the Miniſters, his Majeſty would have you at the ſame Time to put them in mind, That Time will be very precious in this Affair, for that perhaps his Majeſty may not always be at Liberty to enter into thoſe Meaſures he may yet do. I muſt not omit the King's Commands of writing to your Lordſhip by this Poſt, or otherwiſe I ſhould ſcarce have done it now, being very weary, and not very well, but always,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips, &c.

DANBY.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, $\frac{\text{Sept. 28.}}{\text{Oct. 8.}}$ 1678.

My Lord,

I HAVE let his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty know, with all the Care imaginable, That it is impoſſible for the King to make the Declaration which is ſo much deſir'd here; how much he is courted to enter into the contrary Alliance; and have made the Propoſitions your Lordſhips Letters of the 11th and 16th of *September* directed me to do: To which I can obtain no Anſwer, but that the chief Thing towards the procuring the Satisfaction of *Sweden*, is the King's declaring himſelf for it; That his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty wants neither Men nor Ships, but the Countenance of *England*; and, in ſhort, That he deſires nothing more than ſuch an Alliance with my Maſter, and hop'd I would have offered ſomething which might for ever have aſſur'd the good Intelligence between him and my Maſter, which he ſo much wiſh'd. I ſaid all that was poſſible to let him underſtand, That very advantagious Propoſitions were made to the King; That the Power of the Prince of *Orange* was as conſiderable as ever;

ever; That the Buſineſs of *Sweden* could never be accommodated if the King ſhould join with the Confederates; and ſeveral Things to fortify all that, which I am Confident he ſees very plainly, and doubt not but that he deſires extreamly to ſecure the Friendſhip of our Maſter, and may be brought to do a great deal for it, if it were entirely ſecur'd. After this, I told him, The King deſir'd Mr. *Barillon* might be inſtructed in this Matter, and that I had asked Leave to go into *England* for a little Time, which I hop'd to obtain. He ſaid, He ſhould not be ſorry that I made ſuch a Journey, becauſe he hop'd it would contribute to the eſtabliſhing a Correſpondence that might be of Advantage to my Maſter and to him.

THIS being the State of Affairs here, I beg of your Lordſhip that you will pleaſe to ask Leave of the King that I may go into *England* for a Month, or leſs, as he ſhall think fit. I am ſure it cannot Prejudice his Buſineſs, and I hope it may be of ſome Advantage to it; for one cannot write a great many little Things, which are often Important to the Greateſt. Your Lordſhip is ſo unapt to think any Good can come from hence, that I am afraid of telling you I think it may be had, if the King's Affairs will permit him to help them to a General Peace; for this Court is fixed upon thoſe

thoſe Thoughts, and that can hardly be without the King's Aſſiſtance, for which they would do a great deal, that there might be no War ſtill depending in the North, which may again engage the whole World. But I will not any longer detain your Lordſhip, hoping ſoon to have the Honour and Satisfaction of waiting upon you, and acquainting you with all I know of this Matter, and aſſuring you, that I am moſt entirely,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and moſt Obedient Servant,

SUNDERLAND.

PARTICULAR

REMARKS

On ſome of

Lord *Sunderland's* LETTERS.

THEY all relate to the Negotiations betwixt *England* and *France* during that Critical Time of the Treaties of *Nimmeguen*, which ended in the ſeparate Peace betwixt *France* and *Holland*, and at laſt with *Spain* alſo. And I have nothing particularly to Remark in them, ſave that in his Lordſhips of the $\frac{3}{13}$ of *Auguſt*, he tells me, how extreamly glad he was that the Offers of Mr. *Mountagu* had been ſo well Underſtood,

ſtood, and his Repetitions both in his $\frac{11}{11}$ of *Auguſt* 1678, and $\frac{\text{Septemb. } 28.}{\text{October } 8.}$ 1678. and ſeveral others, that I had ſo very bad an Opinion of all the Actings of the *French* Court, that I would never believe any Good could come from them.

Mr. *Brisbane*'s Letters.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, Decemb. $\frac{13}{23}$. 1676.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip has herewith a Copy of my Letter this Day to Mr. Secretary *Coventry*; to which I add, with your Lordſhips Leave, That the Treaty of Commerce which we deſire, and my Lord Ambaſſador has preſs'd with much Care and Application, meets with many Difficulties here: And yet the Objections we hear of them are few and weak, of which I have given an Account to Mr. Secretary, as alſo of my Anſwers to thoſe Objections; ſo that I will not trouble your Lordſhip with a Repetition of them.

My Lord, It is plain enough that they mean nothing but a Delay; and if they can drive it off till there be ſomething done at *Nimmeguen*, or till they ſee our Parliament either Prorogu'd, or refuſing to ſupply the King; I dare venture to tell your

your Lordſhip my Opinion, that we ſhall have no Treaty at all.

I MUST throw my ſelf at your Lordſhips Feet, and beg your Pardon for yet a further Preſumption I think my ſelf oblig'd to uſe; which is, That I have Reaſon to believe, that this Court is perſwaded the Diſtruſts of the Parliament are ſo ſettled, that upon no Terms they will give the King Money, except it be upon ſuch Terms as he will not for his Honour allow of; no, not if it were to make War with *France*; and particularly that the Parliament will never Truſt your Lordſhip with any Thing they ſhall give. Mr. *de Ruvigny* expreſs'd himſelf to this whole Purpoſe to me ſo confidently, that he ſaid he would be content to be held Infamous if it did not prove ſo; and it is natural enough to believe, that ſo ſtrong a Perſwaſion is gone from him to the other Miniſters: And truly, my Lord, I make not the leaſt Doubt but theſe Jealouſies are, and will be fomented from hence, becauſe they keep his Majeſty and the Nation in a Condition to be leſs fear'd; and I will take my Oath we are not lov'd in *France*. None but God can put in the Parliament a Spirit of Union, and Reſpect to his Majeſty, which is the only Thing can render the Nation Safe, Reſpected and Happy. Yet, as the Treaty we are now Aiming at, looks like one Humane

Means to produce that Bleſſed Effect, I venture yet further to offer to your Lordſhip my Thoughts about it.

NEGOTIATIONS here will not do it, I think, at all; and I am ſure not in Time to do Good againſt the Parliament ſits; and therefore,

IF the King would ſpeak of it ſtrongly to Mr. *Courtin*, and immediately uſe him Drily, and keep him at ſome more than ordinary Diſtance:

IF at the ſame Time his Majeſty would Command his Yards to be viſited, and give Directions for the Fitting and Repairing ſome Ships; I ſhould Hope for ſome Good from thoſe Proceedings.

For God's ſake, my Lord, Pardon me, and let me know from Mr. *Bertie* how great you think my Fault is, at venturing at ſuch Matters ſo far above my Capacity and Commiſſion; for I am with a perfect Senſe of your many Favours, and an extraordinary Reſpect, and ſincere Intention,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble,

and moſt Faithful Servant,

J. BRISBANE.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, May 8. 1677. *N. S.*

My Lord,

IT is certainly believ'd here, that Mr. *Courtin* is to leave his Poſt in *England*, and Mr. *Barillon* to go in his Room. The Reaſons given out for it, are by ſome, That Mr. *Courtin* wants Health in *England*; by others, That he cannot ſupport the Expence of it: And all agree that it is his own Deſire or Advice to be recall'd. The Reaſons I imagine for that Change, are quite different; for he knew both his own Conſtitution, and the Expence of the Embaſſy, having made Trial of both before. But, my Lord, there is much Diſcourſe here, of your Lordſhips Power and Influence upon our Affairs, and of the great Succeſs you had this Seſſions, which thoſe that did not wiſh it, attribute to your Prudence, and are afraid that your ſerving the King ſo uſefully, muſt fix you ſo ſtrongly in his Majeſty's Favour, that there will remain no Hopes of removing you; and I am ſure you can never believe they have any good Will for your Lordſhip, and that being laid down here for a Principal of un-

doubted Truth, your Lordſhip may take ſuch Meaſures as you think beſt, to prevent your own Harms, as well as the Nations. And as to Mr. *Courtin*, my Opinion is, That from the beginning of his Embaſſy, he having propos'd to himſelf (and perhaps inſtructed ſo to do) other Meaſures and Means of ſucceeding in his Negotiations than by Application to your Lordſhip, it is not ſo eaſie for him to change his own Meaſures, as it will be for another Ambaſſador to begin upon new Ones. Whether this Conjecture be Right or Wrong, will appear to your Lordſhip by Mr. *de Barillon*'s Carriage when he comes to be employ'd, and it may be you will perceive ſomething of it by his preſent Journey. I offer this only as a Conjecture; your Lordſhip will not, I hope, blame me much if I be miſtaken in it. I remain with perfect Reſpect and Gratitude,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and moſt Faithful Servant,

J. BRISBANE.

To

To the Lord Treaſure.

Paris, 25 *June*. 1677.

My Lord,

I AM heartily, and in ſome Meaſure aſham'd, that my unavoidable Applications to our particular Claims, do ſo wholly ſwallow up my Time, that I cannot poſſibly render my ſelf ſo uſeful in this Station by other Services as I did hope, and earneſtly deſire to be, and as your Lordſhip did me the Favour to think I might. However, I cannot do even the Buſineſs I am reſtrain'd to, without making ſome Obſervations of the Genius and Thoughts of thoſe that govern here, and the Opinions they have of us, and our Inclination towards them. They think the King almoſt at War with the Parliament, and I am ſure would not have them concur in any Thing. They think, or ſay at leaſt, That the Perſonal Friendſhip between our Princes is ſuch, that our Maſter has no where elſe ſo good a Security for the Support of his Prerogative: And I think, and dare

dare ſay, the would be loth upon Occaſion the Defence of it ſhould coſt them any Thing; and God be thanked we are not like to need their help. One Day or Two at moſt, before we had the News of the laſt Addreſs and Adjournment of the Parliament, I was with Mr. *Ruvigny* who is confidently believed here, and with Reaſon, to be the Man in *France* who underſtands *England* beſt. He then told me, He believed the Parliament would give the King the 600000 *l.* but upon harſh Conditions, and would appoint Adminiſtrators of their own. I reply'd, That probably they would not do ſo. He ſaid, *It is true I believe, they may not deſire it now,* * *Parce que Mr. la Grand Treſorier eſt de concert avec eux, qu'il leur promet que l'Argent ſera employé comme ils voulent & qu'ils ſe ſervent peut eſtre a luy pour une fois; may apres cela ils en uſeront comme je vous dis.* The Addreſs and Adjournment have been very gladly receiv'd here, and I am asked many Queſtions about it, which I cannot anſwer; but I am ſure that they wiſh that all Breaches of that Kind may be much wider than I hope they will ever

* Because my Lord Treaſurer is in with them, and has promiſed that the Money ſhall be diſpoſed of as they deſire, they may perhaps this once truſt him, but afterwards they will uſe him as I tell you.

ever ſee them, if there be a Grain of common Senſe left amongſt us. If your Lordſhip will give me Leave to ſpeak my Thoughts concerning that Addreſs, I think it hard to believe, that the Fear of the Greatneſs of *France* could be the Leading Motive to it.

IT is true, the King may miſtake his Meaſures, by using wrong Means to a good End; but I think truly, one Inſtance ought to oblige us all to reverence his Majeſty's Underſtanding and Councils, as well as his Perſon and Character, which has not been the Work of a Day or a Year, but of many: For at his Reſtoration he propos'd to himſelf the Improvement of Trade and Navigation, and hath ſucceeded in it (even before this Conjuncture of other Wars) beyond the Hopes of thoſe that talk'd of it Seventeen Years ago; and yet I am ſure the Means that have produced that extraordinary Effect, have been often blamed by ſpeculative People as not conducing to it. And now the Trade of *England* is at ſuch a height, that it is as hard to think it can continue ſo, as was hard to believe once it would ever riſe to it.

I humbly beg your Lordſhips Pardon for thus tranſgreſſing upon your Leiſure,

(for

(for indeed I have gone farther than I ought, and than I intended) and wiſh for your Lordſhips Proſperity as for my own Well-being, and remain,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble,

moſt Faithful, and

ever Obliged Servant,

J. BRISBANE.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, 27 *Nov.* 1677.

My Lord,

ON *Tueſday* laſt I receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* of the Third of this Month, *Old Stile*, and with it I had Two others incloſed, one for the King, and the other for Monſieur, both which I delivered with the utmoſt Care and Expedition, and both with my own Hand; and the Mareſchal *de Grammont* told me the next Day, that the Letter I deliver'd to the King over Night, was from the Prince of *Orange*: I perceive they made no Secret of them, and therefore it is like there was nothing in them but a Compliment upon occaſion of his Highneſſes Marriage. It was expected by ſome here, That his Majeſty marrying the Princeſs of *Orange* (in the Station ſhe was in when marry'd) would have ſent ſome Body to acquaint this King with the Deſign of it. But I find, and it is certain, that the Miniſters, and thoſe of the Council I converſe with, ſeem to

conſider that Match as a Thing done without any Communication, Council or Conſent asked or given from this Side. I rely upon your Lordſhips Goodneſs for my Pardon and Excuſe, and remain with all poſſible Submiſſion, and unalterable Reſpect.

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble,

moſt Obliged, and

moſt Faithful Servant,

J. BRISBANE.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Paris, 9 *July* 1678. N. S.

My Lord,

I DID Yeſterday viſit Mr. *Courtin*, and, as it happen'd, found him alone at Leiſure in an Humour to ſpeak freely enough. I adventure to trouble your Lordſhip with an Account of that Converſation, as near as I can recollect it, being ſorry I cannot better entertain your Lordſhip, nor make no more profitable Uſe of the Freedom you are pleas'd to allow me.

CONCERNING the Stop to the ſigning the Peace, he ſays, They do not doubt but *Don Emanuel de Lyra* will comply with the *French* King in every Thing, becauſe no Man will dare now to ſpeak of War to the People * *Ebranlé*, and made ſond of the Peace, (which was certainly the only Deſign of publiſhing the Project of the Letter of the 18th *May*) ſo ſure they reckon thoſe Meaſures they take from the Humours of the People, which they think will never agree amongſt themſelves.

* Brought from their Reſolution.

HE told me likewiſe, he hop'd now all would go well between *France* and *England*, tho' there have been ſeveral Cauſes of Diſcontent

Diſcontent given; which I perceive are not forgotten, becauſe he could tell them upon his Fingers. As Firſt, The Voyage of the Prince of *Orange*, which was aſſented to contrary to Pre-ingagement upon a Letter brought by my Lady *Temple*, and which was not communicated to the Duke of *York* till the King of *England* did give it him, and that without the Participation or Knowledge of the *French* King or his Miniſters. To which I reply'd, That Voyage was ſo Publick, and mention'd in all *Gazetts* ſo long before its Execution, and otherwiſe ſo impoſſible to be conceal'd, that it was not probable any Body would think to make a Secret of it. Secondly, The declaring the Marriage next Day after a Promiſe made to Mr. *Barillon*, that it ſhould not be till after the Peace. To this I ſaid, That if he, Mr. *Courtin*, had been upon the Place, he would never have needed to excuſe his own Credulity, by alledging a Promiſe that never was made. Thirdly, The Alliance with *Holland*, and my Lord *Duras* his Meſſage, was mention'd and exaggerated. And to this I ſaid, That moſt Men did find the Conditions of Peace ſtipulated in that Treaty ſo advantageous to *France*, that they were perſuaded it was done by Conſent with the King of *France*; and no Body can eaſily believe he is in earneſt, when he ſeems to diſlike it.

THEN

THEN he ſpoke of our Troops ſent into *Flanders*; and to theſe Points I told him, He certainly knew theſe Actions were not only in themſelves reaſonable and prudent, but otherwiſe very conſiſtent with the greateſt Friendſhip, and deſigned in their Favour to produce the Peace they had ſo much Reaſon to deſire, and which they did ſo earneſtly purſue.

HE told me alſo, (but I don't remember in what Period of our Converſation) That the Things the King of *England* deſir'd of the Parliament in his laſt Propoſition, were very reaſonable, and fit to be done; but he did believe the Parliament was not diſpoſed to let the Lord Treaſurer have the Credit of being inſtrumental of ſuch an Advantage. This is the old String I have found them harping upon; and to try what he would ſay, I applauded his Penetration of Knowledge of our Affairs, and ask'd, Who elſe he thought would be fit to promote the King of *England*'s Intereſts? He anſwered with Humm's and Ha's, and named no Body; and truly I could name no Body to him: But a while after, and upon another Occaſion, he ſaid, One of *Scotland* ſeemed to him the moſt qualified for the Miniſtry of all he had practiſed, were it not for his Paſſions.

I BEG your Lordſhips Pardon for this tedious Re-capitulation, and wiſh nothing more earneſtly, than that I might be furniſh'd with better Materials to uſe more excuſably the Freedom you allow me. I remain with great Submiſſion and entire Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Humble,

moſt Obliged, and Faithful Servant,

J. ATTERBURY.

PARTICULAR REMARKS

On ſome of

Mr. Brisbane's LETTERS, *who was a Gentleman employ'd by the King in the Court of* France *about Marine Affairs, and who was extreme well acquainted with the chief Miniſters of* France, *and did many Times give the beſt Intelligence that was had from that Court.*

MOST of his Letters related to the Marine Affairs, and to that Treaty with *France*; but I have only mention'd ſuch as give an Account of the Opinion the Miniſters had of the Diſtruſts betwixt the King of *England* and his Parliament, and how much they rely'd upon it: And I deſire it may be particularly obſerv'd from

Mr. *Brisbane's* Letter of the 25th of *June* 1677, how Mr. *de Ruvigny* was able to tell what that Parliament would do in relation to Supplies before they did give the Money; and that when they did give it, it was directly under those Restrictions which he had foretold to Mr. *Brisbane*, which shews that he was in a much better Correspondence with others than he was with me; as appear'd also afterwards more plainly by his private Negotiations with Mr. *Montagu*, and others.

I HAVE also added some Informations about my self, which were written by him to Mr. *Charles Bertie*.

Mr. Brisbane's *Information to Mr.* Bertie, *from* Paris July 30. 1678.

Mr. *Courtin* told me Yesterday, That he had shewed the Duke of *York*, that my Lord Treasurer was not respectful to him; when a Resolution being taken to Prorogue the Parliament, my Lord Treasurer advised the King to continue it without the Knowledge of the Duke. They spare nothing to mischief him.

Mr.

Mr. Brisbane's *Information to Mr.* Charles Bertie, *from* Paris Jan. 18. 167⅞.

OLD *Ruvigny* visited me Yesterday, and told me, My Lord Treasurer was Able and Bold; That the Prorogation is a * *Coup de Partie*; That he sowed much Money in the House of Commons, but all for himself, and not for the King. This Obstinacy to hurt my Lord Treasurer, ought to tie honest Men fast to him.

* A finishing Blow.

Mr. *Hyde*'s Letters.

To Mr. Hyde.

Whitehall, Dec. 4. 1677.

My Lord Ambaſſador,

HIS Majeſty has commanded Mr. *Mountagu* forthwith to return to *Paris*, and with utmoſt Inſtance to preſs *France* anew to accept of the Propoſitions ſent by the Earl of *Feverſham:* And becauſe his Majeſty would be prepared to drive this Matter to a final and ſpeedy Iſſue, and that his Majeſty foreſees that the moſt Chriſtian King, when preſs'd afreſh by Mr. *Mountagu* in the Thing, may not unlikely ask, In caſe he ſhould on his Part accept of the Propoſitions, what ſecurity his Majeſty can give him, that *Spain* on their Part will accept of it alſo? In caſe the Thing ſhould poſſibly

poſſibly come to reſt upon this Point, his Majeſty has thought fit, after this Knowledge given you of what has paſs'd, and of the State in which the Thing now is, to direct you forthwith upon Receipt hereof to addreſs your ſelf to the Prince of *Orange*; and after you have acquainted his Highneſs with what has happen'd in this Matter ſince he parted; the Coldneſs of the Anſwer brought by my Lord *Feverſham*; the ſhortening of the Adjournment of the Parliament that has follow'd upon that; and the Diſpatch of Mr. *Mountagu* back to *Paris*; to acquaint his Highneſs you have Orders from his Majeſty to let him know, That if the States will join with his Majeſty to oblige *Spain*, his Majeſty will join with them to oblige *France* to accept the Conditions ſent by my Lord *Feverſham*, in caſe either ſhould refuſe them: And in this, the King deſires to know clearly how far he will anſwer to his Majeſty, that the States will thus join with him, if there be Cauſe for it. This is a Point his Majeſty thinks it will by no Means be fit yet to ſpeak of to the States themſelves, and therefore his Majeſty goes no farther for Anſwer than to the Prince himſelf; on whoſe Word his Majeſty will rely, in caſe his Highneſs will undertake to anſwer for the States in this Point. His Highneſs will eaſily judge by this, how ne-

ceſſary it is for his Majeſty to have a ſpeedy and clear Anſwer from his Highneſs in this Matter, which you muſt therefore take Care earneſtly to ſolicite for, and to return it by the Expreſs that carries you this, who is to that End directed to obſerve your Orders as to the Time of his Stay there, and Return back. I am, &c.

J. WILLIAMSON.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, $\frac{\text{February 26.}}{\text{March 8.}}$ 167$\frac{7}{8}$.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordſhip will have been inform'd by a Letter the Prince of *Orange* writ to your Lordſhip out of *Flanders*, which the Penſioner *Fagell* ſent you by an Expreſs, of the deſperate Condition Things were in in that Country, and that the *Spaniards* wiſhed for Peace upon any Terms. And this Morning the Penſioner came to me to acquaint me, they were as bad in theſe Provinces: That the Conſternation even here was ſo great upon the Beſieging of *Ghent*, which they give for gone, and conſequently *Bruges* and *Bruxelles*, that there were Deſigns amongſt ſome of them to ſubmit themſelves to *France* upon any Terms, and that he was afraid it was a Torrent too great to be oppos'd: That the States of *Holland* were to meet to Morrow; and that he apprehended he ſhould not be able to hinder them from coming to ſuch a Reſolution: That he would uſe his utmoſt Induſtry to prevail with them to delay it till they could hear out of *England* in Anſwer to what his Expreſs carried over;

over; but he owned at the ſame Time, That he gives all for gone in *Flanders* before any Thing can come from the King to their Aſſiſtance. But if his Majeſty could procure them any Peace, as he ſaid, (**Tant ſoit peu ſeure*) it would be looked upon as a great Service done to the States; and as he took it for the Intereſt of the Prince of *Orange*, which was ſo weakened by the ill Succeſſes of the War, that nothing but a Peace could eſtabliſh it. I took Occaſion to deſire him to explain what he meant by that Expreſſion, (*Tant ſoit peu ſeure*) becauſe he had uſed it twice or thrice: And he told me, That as he underſtood the *French* had been contented with the Terms projected between the King and the States, ſave *Valenciennes* and *Tournay*, or, ſaid he, It may be one of them: I had rather, ſaid he, for my Part have *Tournay* than *Valenciennes*, but we are not in a Condition to chooſe. I have given your Lordſhip the Account of this latter Part, concerning theſe two Towns, to your ſelf in particular, and have not mentioned it in my Letter to the Secretary, for Reaſons that your Lordſhip will eaſily comprehend: And I thought it lay upon me, as ſoon as I was able, to give your Lordſhip a better Anſwer to the Letter I had the Honour to receive from you by Mr. *Godolphin*, than I could do

*That has the leaſt Appearance of Safety.

do then; I mean to your Question, What I took the Sense of this Country to be as to their Desires of Peace or War: By which I hope your Lordship will be perswaded, that I did not obey you then for Want of good Information, and that I am always mindful of your Commands when I am capable of serving you. I remain with great Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient

and most Humble Servant,

L. HYDE.

Fa

To Mr. Hyde.

London, 16 *April* 1678.

My Lord,

BESIDES that my Time would not allow me to ſay much, I am ſure it is not neceſſary, ſince you will have ſo good an Informer of all Things by Mr. *Godolphin*. I ſhall therefore only deſire, That according to the Inſtructions you will receive by him, you will make the Penſioner, and all the Foreign Miniſters in that Place, as ſenſible as our Maſter is, of the Unworthineſs and Falſeneſs of what the *French* have ſaid of him concerning the *Swede*, and his Undertaking for the States in their Behalf; and that you will endeavour to put all Thoughts of Peace out of their Heads, (and eſpecially the Penſioners) it being no longer to be looked for by them, till the *French* Inſolence be a little tamed by a War. I will trouble you with no more but an Aſſurance of my being

Your Excellencies, &c.

DANBY.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, April 22. May 3. 1678.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED the Honour of your Lordſhips Letter of the 16th by Mr. *Godolphin*, who had ſo ill a Paſſage at Sea, that he got not hither till laſt Night: And having given the Secretary of State as particular an Account as my Memory would help me with, of all that hath paſs'd between us, the Prince and the Penſioner, in purſuance of our Inſtructions; I have not much to add worth giving your Lordſhip the Trouble of reading it, only one Particular relating to what you will find in mine to the Secretary, of the Prince's private Advice, how his Majeſty ſhould be pleaſed to anſwer the Envoy Extraordinary of this State, upon the Requeſt he goes to make from hence. And I am under the ſtricteſt Promiſes not to name the Body that gives me the Information; but only, that his Majeſty would be pleaſed to anſwer the Meſſenger roundly as to his Buſineſs ſuitable to what the Prince had deſired, and uſe him in his Perſon very civilly and kindly. This further Advice I have

to

to give from the ſame Perſon, That if his Majeſty would be pleaſed to let the Parliament be acquainted with theſe Proceedings of the States, and their ungovernable Inclinations to a Peace; That when his Majeſty expected from them Inſtructions to conclude a Treaty of Alliance, inſtead of that, they ſent an Envoy to deſire a Peace upon ſuch ruinous and inſupportable Conditions; and, That his Majeſty would be pleaſed to allow the Parliament to make ſome Declaration of their Diſapproving ſuch a Conduct, and a Contempt of their Baſeneſs and Meanneſs to accept of ſuch Terms: It would be of great Uſe to the ſetting them again in their Wits.

I HAVE no more to ſay of the Information, but as to the Informer, That he made me promiſe him very ſolemnly I would not name him: That beſides that, if he were diſcovered, it would coſt him all; it would render the Service the Prince expects from this *Van Leven's* Journey (as a Man in whom the contrary Party to his Highneſs have entire Credit) wholly ineffectual; if it ſhould come to be known, that the Anſwer the King gives proceeds from any Intelligence here; and to that End, he deſired me not to write it in a Letter that was to be produced to any other Perſon. He wiſhed, That his Majeſty might have the Information of it for the Direction of his Judgment, That

he

he may reaſonably expect a perfect Compliance from this Country, if he pleaſed to declare he would not accept ſuch a Peace; and this is the Reaſon I have not ſaid a Word of this Matter in my Letter to the Secretary, though I have of the Prince of *Orange*'s Advice, which likewiſe ought to be managed with great Secrecy, or elſe it will certainly do Hurt to the Buſineſs, and may do to the Prince: And by this Means, I have put my ſelf again in the Danger of drawing ſuch another Buſineſs upon my ſelf, as the Explanation of the Words, (*Tant ſoit peu ſeure*) if your Lordſhip have not Care to divert it from me. I humbly beg your Lordſhips Pardon for this tedious Letter, and deſire you to reckon me amongſt thoſe that are with the greateſt Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and moſt Humble Servant,

L. HYDE.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, April 30. May 10. 1678.

My Lord,

I HOPE your Lordſhip did not take it ill, that in my Laſt to you, I did not name you the Author of the Intelligence I then gave you: I had ſo ſtrictly given my Word I would not, that I could not diſpence with my ſelf in it; but your Lordſhip might eaſily imagine from whom I would venture to give you any Informations. Since that Time, methinks all thoſe Aſſurances are mightily ſhrunk; for Yeſterday Morning the States of *Holland* were aſſembled by Five a Clock, and for Fear of being concluded in Point of Time, came to a Reſolution, That they for their Parts ſhould accept of the Conditions of Peace offered by the *French*, and would do all their Endeavours to induce their Allies to do the like, in caſe they can obtain Prolongation of the Time appointed for the accepting of the ſaid Conditions; as your Lordſhip may ſee more at large in my Letter to the Secretary, and the Extract of the Reſolution it ſelf of the States, which I ſend likewiſe incloſed to the Secretary. This very Vote the Penſioner told me had been upon Debate on *Saturday*, but he had then been

been able to keep them from coming to a Reſolution upon it, chiefly by reading to them a Letter Mr. *Van Benninghen* had writ to his Maſters here; wherein he gave them an Account of a particular Diſcourſe held by your Lordſhip to him, wherein your Lordſhip had ſaid, That the King had Hopes to get them a Peace upon better Terms than thoſe offered by the Propoſitions at *Nimmeguen*; and that he having asked your Lordſhip, What thoſe Terms were? Your Lordſhip had anſwered him, You were not at Liberty to tell him the Particulars, being yet in Hopes to make them better. Of this, I have ſaid nothing in my Letter to the Secretary, becauſe it concern'd only what the Ambaſſador had writ. Word had paſſed betwixt your Lordſhip and him; but I thought it not amiſs to give your Lordſhip the Notice of what he (Mr. *Van Benninghen*) hath writ of it, as I would do of any Thing I thought might do your Lordſhip any Service, and have nothing more at preſent to add to your Trouble, but the Profeſſions of being with great Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient

and moſt Humble Servant,

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, May $\frac{12}{22}$. 1678.

My Lord,

TO the Account I give the Secretary of State by an Expreſs, of a Letter received Yeſterday by the States from the *French* King; I take the Liberty to add this Trouble to your Lordſhip, that you may the leſs wonder at me for making ſo ſudden an Anſwer to the Deputies of the States upon the Communication of that Letter to me; and it is in as few Words as I can, to let your Lordſhip know, That the Prince coming to Mr. *Odyck*'s Houſe, (as ſoon as the States had reſolved to ſend their Deputies to me) with Hopes of finding me there, from whence I was juſt gone Home to receive the Deputies, he ſent Mr. *Godolphin* in great haſte to me, to tell me what the Deputies were coming about; and that if he might ever adviſe me, it ſhould be to give them a ſhort Anſwer, and ſummon them upon the Performance of their Word and Treaty with the King: That the States were not yet come to any Reſolutions amongſt themſelves: That it might depend in great Meaſure upon the

Anſwer

Anſwer I and the Miniſters of the Allies ſhould make them; and that if I ſhould give it to this Purpoſe, he had Hopes all might go well.

THIS earneſt Recommendation of the Prince's, together with the Conſideration that it was ſuitable to the Anſwer the King had given to Mr. *Van Lemen*, made me take upon me more than perhaps was fit for me, as your Lordſhip may ſee more at large in mine to the Secretary: And when I had done as the Prince recommended to me, I went to give his Highneſs an Account of it, who gave me Leave to acquaint your Lordſhip, that he had given me the Advice, but deſired I would not do it to any Body whoſe Letter was to be read to any Committee of the Council; becauſe his Highneſs thought it might be Prejudicial to him if it ſhould come to be known again, that he meddled in giving Advice upon ſuch Occaſions. I find by Diſcourſe with Mr. *de Lyra* laſt Night, that he and the reſt of the Confederate Miniſters did in Effect give the ſame Anſwer to the Deputies that I had done, putting them in Mind of their Treaties; and yet I thought out of what even he ſaid himſelf to me, I could ſee that *Spain* would conſent to the Peace offered by the *French*. On *Tueſday*, by the Poſt, I may perhaps give your Lordſhip a farther Account of what

Progress is made in Answer of this *French* Letter; and in the mean Time, I have nothing at the present more to add, but that I am with great Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient,

and most Humble Servant,

L. HYDE.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, May 28/June 7. 1678.

My Lord,

I AM extreamly obliged to your Lordſhip for the Favour of your Letter of the 21ſt; by which you have been pleaſed ſo clearly to inform me of the Condition of his Majeſty's Affairs, and of his Pleaſure concerning my Behaviour here, which I ſhall be ſure to conform to, to the beſt of my Underſtanding. And accordingly on *Saturday* laſt in the Evening, the Deputies of the States came to communicate to me the Anſwer from the *French* King to Mr. *Beverning*, and deſired me in the Name of the States to repreſent to the King, That the ill Condition of their Affairs had made them look upon the Peace, as the only Means to preſerve themſelves from Ruin, and to deſire his Majeſties Compliance with them in conſenting to it. I made no other Anſwer, but that I ſhould faithfully repreſent their Deſires to his Majeſty; and if I received any Commands upon it, would acquaint them with them. I ſuppoſe your Lordſhip will find from the Prince of *Orange*, that I have obeyed your Commands to him, in acquainting

him with what you directed me to ſay to him concerning the ſeparate Bargains the King ſeemed to be apprehenſive of, for the Exchange of *Flanders*; but his Highneſs returned me no Anſwer, but that he would write particularly of it to your Lordſhip: And accordingly while I have been writing this, I have received the Incloſed from his Highneſs, to be ſent your Lordſhip; and I have nothing to add but humbly to beg you to believe, that I am with all Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient,

and moſt Humble Servant,

L. HYDE.

PARTICULAR REMARKS

On ſome of

Mr. *Hyde*'s LETTERS.

I HAVE mentioned only ſuch of Mr. *Hyde*'s Letters, as relates to the private Negotiations betwixt the King my Maſter, and the Prince of *Orange*, moſt of which the Prince durſt not let be known to the States, and wherein he truſted no Body in *England* (beſides the King) but my ſelf. And his of $\frac{\text{April } 29.}{\text{May } 10.}$ mentions, That my Diſcourſe with Mr. *Van Benninghen*, had kept the States from coming to ſo ſpeedy a Reſolution about the Peace; and that Letter of Mr. *Van Benninghen*'s about his Diſcourſe with me, was read to the States on the 29th of *April* 1678, ſo that my Diſ-

courſe muſt have been with the Ambaſſador here in *England* ſome Days before; and then I deſire it may be obſerved, how that likewiſe agrees with my ſo often repeated Letter of the 25th of *March* 1678, on which I was accuſed, this Diſcourſe of mine with the Ambaſſador being within a Month at fartheſt after the ſaid Letter, and my Diſcourſe with the Ambaſſador made publick to *France*, and all the World ſo ſoon after.

FOR Fear of making this Narrative too large, I have not inſerted any Letters writ betwixt the Secretaries of State, and his Majeſties ſeveral Ambaſſadors; but I thought it proper to inſert one Part of Secretary *Williamſon*'s Diſpatch to Mr. *Hyde*, which is dated the 4th of *December* 1677, which does ſo fully make appear his Majeſties poſitive Reſolutions to join with the States to oblige *France*, if the States will join with him to oblige *Spain* to accept the Conditions which were ſent by the Lord *Feverſham*, in caſe either *France* or *Spain* ſhould refuſe them; and was ſo forward in this, that he offered to take the Prince's Word alone for the Performance of this Reſolution, if he did but believe that the States would come up to it,

Note

Note alſo, My reſpectful Treatment of the *French* in my Letter to Mr. *Hyde* of the 16th of *April* 1678, which was but Twenty Days after my ſo often repeated Letter of the 25th of *March* 1678.

Mr. Godolphin's *Letters*, &c.

Copy of the Inſtructions to Mr. Sidney Godolphin *the 8th of* Febr. 1678.

YOU are immediately to go to the Prince of *Orange*, and to repreſent to him,

1. THAT (contrary to my Expectation) I find the Parliament very backward in their Proceedings, to give me ſufficient Supplies for the Support of a War againſt *France*.

2. THAT the Steps which have been made towards it hitherto, hath been with very great Difficulty; and that I have too much Reaſon to be confident, That all I ſhall be able to get at laſt from them, will either be too little to maintain the War; or given ſo late, and for ſo ſhort a Time, as will not enable

enable me to do him any Good, but may probably put me into a dangerous Condition both at Home and Abroad.

3. THAT I have receiv'd Letters from my Resident at *Brussels*, who writes, that (by the *D. de Villa Hermosa*'s Directions) he was to let me know, That the Duke hop'd I would conclude a Peace upon the best Condition I could get, for that he despair'd of saving *Flanders* by a War, and repeated these Desires to him twice.

4. THAT altho the Marquess *de Burgomaine* would not directly own the Saying so much as my Resident had writ; yet he confess'd, and does still, that the Duke *de Villa Hermosa* wishes a Peace much rather than the Continuance of the War.

5. THAT when the *Spaniard* shall see our Backwardness, and how little Assistance I shall be able to give them this Year, (or perhaps at all) and seeing to what Extremities they will be reduc'd, by the great Preparations made against them: I cannot but believe they will either submit to any Separate Peace which shall be offered by *France*, or that they will be no longer able to keep their Towns from giving themselves up to the *French*.

6. THAT

6. THAT theſe Conſiderations have moved me to ſend you purpoſely to acquaint him with this true State of Things here, to the End that he might take his own Meaſures the more certainly, and that I might receive his Opinion what (as the Caſe ſtands) might be moſt adviſeable for us both.

7. THAT I have Reaſon to think (altho' it has not been directly propos'd to me) That the Propoſitions for a Peace, ſent by my Lord *Feverſham*, would be accepted, ſaving the Town of *Tourney*; but that as I will never hear of any Alteration without the Prince of *Orange* his Conſent to it, ſo I have told the *French* Ambaſſador, that I would never propoſe to the *Spaniards* the quitting of *Tourney*, becauſe it opens ſuch a Paſſage into the Heart of *Flanders*: But I deſire to know, whether (to avoid worſe Conſequences by the War) the Prince might not think convenient to let me offer *Charlemont* (or ſome other Place he may think of) for *Tourney*, if by ſuch an Accommodation the Peace would be procur'd; becauſe I am confident the *D. de Villa Hermoſa* would be glad of it: And I have the ſame Opinion of the States.

8. YOU

TAKE

8. YOU shall give him full Assurance, That these Propositions proceed not in the least from any Change, or Alteration of my Resolutions to remain firm to him, and to the Treaty I have made with the States; but purely to prevent, by all possible Expedients, those greater Mischiefs which I fear may befal both him and me, by my Incapacity of assisting him as I would, and the great Uncertainty of receiving either timely or sufficient Supplies from my Parliament to do it.

9. YOU may also assure him (in case you shall find any Scruple on his Part), That the Proposal of changing some Place for *Tournay*, is wholly from my self, and that I never have receiv'd any such Proposal from *France*, nor do I know whether any such would be accepted.

10. YOU shall also let him know, That in case a Peace cannot be agreed on, it will be impossible for me to send any Troops into *Flanders*, unless I may have the Port of *Ostend* put into my Hand; and I desire that he will Intereſt himself so far in that Matter, that I may by him know (in that Case) whether the *Spaniard* will let me have it or no.

LASTLY,

LASTLY, You are to remind him how long I have been in Expectation of some Body from him, to concert the Naval Preparations, and other Matters relating to the War; and I desire that some Body may be sent over for that Purpose with all convenient Speed.

YOU shall communicate all these Instructions to my Ambassador Mr. *Hyde*; but both of you are to pretend your Business to be only to give the Prince of *Orange* an Account of your Negotiation with the Duke *de Villa Hermosa* about *Ostend*.

YOU are to return in Two Days after your Arrival at the *Hague*, or where else you shall find the Prince, unless he shall desire your Stay some Time longer.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, 11 March 167⅞.

My Lord,

I ARRIVED here Yeſterday, and this Morning my Lord Ambaſſador brought me to the Penſioner, whom I acquainted, as well I could, with the Terms upon which Mr. *Barillon* ſaid he had Power to ſign the Peace; as alſo ſuch other Particulars as I had in Command from his Majeſty by the Hands of Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*, taking Notice eſpecially of his (the Penſioner's) Diſcourſe of the Conſternation of their Country, and the univerſal Deſire of a Peace, repreſented to his Majeſty by my Lord Ambaſſador there preſent; which very Repreſentation, my Lord Ambaſſador explain'd to him, was the Occaſion of his Majeſty's commanding me to paſs that Way, and to acquaint him (out of an Apprehenſion of loſing Time, and knowing the entire Truſt and Confidence the Prince had in him) with this Propoſition of the *French* Ambaſſador concerning the Peace. He anſwer'd, without any delay, That the Conditions of their Affairs was worſe now than when he had made that Repreſentation of it to my Lord Ambaſſador: For one Inſtance whereof, he

ſaid,

ſaid, That their Actions were fallen ſince that Time almoſt 20 in the 100. That notwithſtanding this, thoſe of *Amſterdam* (whom he had moſt apprehended) had reſolv'd to make another Contribution towards the Support of the War, and declin'd the taking (for the preſent) any haſty Meaſures towards a Peace, till they had a Return of their Repreſentation into *England*, of the Extremity to which they were reduc'd: That he was ſenſible that neither the King of *England*, nor any other Allies of theirs, were in a Condition to ſend them ſuch conſiderable and immediate Succours as the urgent Neceſſity of their Affairs required: That the *Spaniards* (as I ſhould find) had not in all *Flanders* above 4000 Men: That the Emperor's Army could not poſſibly march towards their Aſſiſtance till *May*, at the ſooneſt: That the Forces of *Brandenburgh*, and the other Allies, were likewiſe very backward; and concluding, if the Peace were not accepted upon theſe Conditions, (ill as they were) the *French* muſt preſently be Maſters of all the great Towns in *Flanders*. He added farther, That he took it to be the Intereſt of the Prince of *Orange* to make the Peace even upon theſe hard Conditions (as he often call'd them), becauſe that without it he could hardly recover his Intereſt in the Country, and the Affections of the People which had of late too viſibly declin'd

declin'd towards him. When I told him, the King my Maſter had Hopes (if this Propoſition was conſented to) of getting *Conde* reſtor'd, tho' the *French* inſiſted now upon that Place as well as *Tournay* and *Valenciennes*; he ſaid, He would loſe no Time to ſend immediately to the Prince, to acquaint him with the Propoſition I had brought, as likewiſe of his own Opinion upon it; and in the mean Time, he would not communicate any Part of it to the States, till he had had the Prince's Anſwer, which he hop'd would be agreeable to what he had there ſaid to my Lord Ambaſſador and me, and to what he was well convinced was the particular Intereſt of the Prince himſelf; adding, That if the Prince concurred in it, when it ſhould come to be communicated to the States, there would be an univerſal Joy in the whole Country, and he believ'd the *Spaniard* would alſo be well pleaſed with it.

WE repeated often to him, how important it was, that this ſhould appear to be done at the Inſtance and Deſire as well of *Spain* as of the States; and he promiſed, that ſhould be done in ſuch Form as my Lord Ambaſſador ſhould himſelf think moſt Expedient. I hope your Lordſhip will pleaſe favourably to impute ſome Part of the Confuſedneſs of this Letter to the Hurry I

am in, being presently to depart towards *Antwerp*; and you may the better excuse my Omissions, since they will be so fully supply'd by my Lord Ambassador. I remain with all possible Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Humble

and most Obedient Servant,

S. GODOLPHIN.

To Mr. Godolphin.

SIR, *Whitehall, March* 17. 167¾.

MY laſt to you was on the 12th, by the Way of the *Hague*, ſince which I have received the Favour of yours of the $\frac{14}{10}$. and $\frac{17}{11}$. which laſt brought an Account of the State of Things as you found them upon Diſcourſe with the Penſioner at your Arrival at the *Hague*, and that you were that Day parting, to continue your Journey to the Prince of *Orange*, in order to the informing your ſelf what would be his Highneſſes Mind and Thoughts, upon the violent Humour that had diſcovered it ſelf in *Holland* for a Peace. We are now in a Day or Two to expect, if the Weather allow it, ſome Account of that Matter from you, which you will eaſily judge it extremely imports his Majeſty to know with all the Speed poſſible. In the mean Time, his Majeſty goes on with all the Vigour and Diligence poſſible to perfect his Levies, and in ſeveral Places conſiderable Muſters have already been made of thoſe new Men. Twenty Companies more of One hundred apiece are now paſſing over to *Flanders*, beyond the Two Thouſand eight hundred already there; ſo as nothing is left undone, which is in his Majeſty's Power for the Relief of the Common Cauſe. It is true, That the King cannot go ſo faſt as he would in this Work, from the great

Delays the Supplies has hitherto met with in the Houſe. You know how ill an Humour you left us in, and I am ſorry to tell you the Humour has grown, and does grow daily much worſe.

THE Poll Bill indeed is paſſed the Two Houſes, but with the tacked Clauſe of an abſolute Prohibition of the Four or Five Principal *French* Commodities of Wine, Salt, Linnen, Brandy and Paper, and for Three Years. The reſt of the Million, which is by far the greateſt Part, is yet uncared for by the Commons; and they give us but ſmall Hopes of their going much faſter towards the making up the Million, unleſs the the King would firſt declare the War, which, by an Addreſs now before the Lords to join with us in, we are going to preſs him moſt violently to, whereas you know that's abſolutely impoſſible: And ſo the King in the firſt opening of this Seſſion told them, till they have firſt given him his Aid. And thus we are again fallen into the old Circle of the King's Asking, to be enabled to act, and their inſiſting to have him act, before they have enabled him; ſo as God knows, Things look but very awkwardly as to a War, and ſuch a War as this ought to be.

THIS it is fit you ſhould know in the Station you are, tho' at the ſame Time you will remember, how wary you are to be in the Uſe you make of theſe Advices; that

that is, Whatever Diſcouragements his Majeſty unhappily meets with in this ill Humour of the Parliament, yet ſtill his Majeſty's Reſolutions you know are (as they were when you left us) to proceed with the utmoſt Vigour in the Execution of his Alliance with the States: And that whatever Change falls out to be in Things; I mean, whatever Tendencies there ariſe elſewhere towards the Peace; his Majeſty is perfectly paſſive in it, and will not by any Means that it ſhould be thought to ariſe from his Majeſty, or that his Majeſty gives at all into it, otherways than as in a Manner forced to it by the States and *Spain*, which you know was the main Point you are by your Inſtructions to ſteer by in this whole Matter, and that is ſtill to be your great Caution, and which you muſt above all take Care of, although, as I tell you, it be true that Things look very awkwardly here; I mean, in the ill Humour of the Houſe of Commons, ſince you left us.

PRAY let us hear as often and as early as your Conveniency and Leiſure will allow, of all that paſſes with you. I am with much Truth,

SIR,

Your moſt Humble and
Faithful Servant,
J. WILLIAMSON.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, May $\frac{15}{25}$. 1678.

My Lord,

I HAVE ſeldom any Thing to add from hence, to the Diſpatch of my Lord Ambaſſador, worth troubling your Lordſhip, or elſe I ſhould give my ſelf the Honour of writing to you oftner.

YESTERDAY in the Afternoon, there came hither a Trumpeter from the *French* King, with a Letter from his Maſter to the States General, and great Care was taken that it ſhould not miſcarry; for there came a Duplicate of it another Way within Two Hours after, and a Third at Night by the Way of *Nimmeguen*. My Lord Ambaſſador ſends a Copy of it to the Secretary, by which your Lordſhip will ſee how fitly it is framed, at leaſt to diſtract the Minds and Reſolutions of theſe People here, if not to flatter them into a ſeparate Peace. The States aſſembled to receive it, and after Two Hours Conſultation, reſolved to communicate it to their Allies,

Bes, and deſire their Advice and Council thereupon.

MY Lord Ambaſſador and I waiting to hear what they had done at Mr. *Odycke*'s Houſe near the Court; Mr. *Odycke* came out of the Aſſembly to acquaint my Lord Ambaſſador, That the States were juſt ſending ſome Deputies to his Houſe, and deſired him to go Home and receive them. Preſently after he was gone, The Prince came thither and told me, He would have gladly have ſpoken to my Lord Ambaſſador before the Deputies came to him; but ſince he was gone, he deſired me to go to him immediately, and tell him, It was his Advice, and he did deſire him when the Deputies of the States ſhould come to him, that he would put them in Mind of their Promiſes and Obligations to the King his Maſter, and preſs them in his Majeſty's Name to make good their Alliance with him. The Prince added theſe Words to me; And I hope all will go well, for they have not yet reſolved what their Anſwer ſhall be. The Prince deſired this Advice of his might not be written in any Letter, to be ſhewed at the Committee of Foreign Affairs, becauſe it might be Prejudicial to him if it were known here. My Lord Ambaſſador anſwer'd the Deputies accordingly: For his Anſwer, I ſhall refer your Lord-

ſhip to his own Diſpatches, remaining ever with all poſſible Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble

and moſt Obedient Servant,

S. GODOLPHIN.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, May $\frac{14}{24}$. 1678.

My Lord,

BY the joint Diſpatch of my Lord Ambaſſador and me to the Secretary of State, your Lordſhip will ſee what Anſwer the States of *Holland* have reſolved to make to the *French* King's Letter, as alſo that they were very unanimous in the Anſwer it ſelf, though they differed in the Manner of ſending; ſome deſigning to ſend Deputies, and others (and they the major Part) a Letter only: That the Prince himſelf was of the Mind of theſe latter in the Morning, and voted with them; but that afterwards, when my Lord Ambaſſador and I were with him, he ſeemed to be much unreſolved, and to doubt within himſelf, whether it were not better to ſend Deputies? The Reaſon of his Irreſolution, your Lordſhip will alſo ſee in the Diſpatch to Mr. Secretary, and I need not trouble you with the Repetition of them. But one Thing which the Prince ſaid to me alone, I think my ſelf obliged to acquaint you with; it was this: Speaking of the Diſtractions and the Diviſions in *England* at this Time, and how the finding

finding them to encreaſe every Day in the Parliament, was that which did moſt of all diſcourage him from ſtruggling any longer againſt the Inclinations of this whole Country to the Peace.

I can add nothing to what you will ſee in the Diſpatch which goes by this Poſt to Mr. Secretary. I remain with all poſſible Reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble,

and Obedient Servant,

S. GODOLPHIN.

PAR-

PARTICULAR REMARKS

On ſome of Mr. Godolphin's *Letters and Inſtructions.*

I HAVE inſerted the Inſtructions given to Mr. *Godolphin*, upon his being ſent into *Holland* the 8th of *February* 167½. that it may thereby appear, how firm the King my Maſter continued to his Alliance with the States; and I have only added Four Letters, Three of them written by Mr. *Godolphin* to me in *March* and *May* 1678, and one by Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* to Mr. *Godolphin* in *March* 1678. By which will appear the earneſt Solicitation of the States to the King my Maſter, to get him to conſent with them to the Conditions of ſo bad a Peace as he could never be brought to, and that the Prince of *Orange* durſt not be known to ſay any Thing againſt, as bad as it was; and I deſire it may be obſerved, that this was within Two Months after the writing of my Letter of the 29th of *March* 1678. to Mr. *Mountagu*, on which I was accuſed.

CON-

CONCLUSION.

ALTHOUGH I intend this Narrative only for a Vindication of my ſelf, and not as a Memoir to ſet forth any Actions of my own (who have done nothing but my Duty); yet having a Claim, which no Man can deny, (and hath been owned by King *William* himſelf) of my being the Chief Inſtrument in procuring the Match between him and his Queen; and that Match having been, under God, the ſole Means not only of ſaving both our Religion and our Laws, but of placing the Crown upon her Majeſty: I will not ſuffer that Part of my Services to be buried in Oblivion, altho' I expect no Thanks, and eſpecially from ſome of thoſe who owe their Riſe and Preferment to it. And for the Part I acted, in Purſuance to that Duty to my Country at the Time of the Revolution, I have ſo many living Witneſſes, who were my Companions in the North at that Time, that I ſhall rely on their Report of my Behaviour there; and doubt not, but it will be ſuch as will juſtifie my having performed with Succeſs, as much as fell within the Compaſs of my Power.

FINIS.

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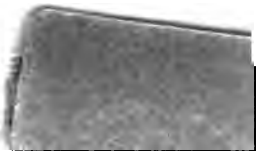
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